

funding Ohio's democratic infrastructure ultimately helps to maintain the integrity of our state.[1]

President Ronald Reagan once said, "Every American must know he or she can count on an equal chance and an equal vote." [2] Counting on that equal chance requires counting every vote -- with voting machines. In today's democratic process, voting machines are a key piece of infrastructure on which our elections depend. Unfortunately, many of Ohio's county boards of elections still rely on voting machines purchased more than a decade ago with funds from the federal Help America Vote Act. [3] These machines are in desperate need of replacement.

The Buckeye Institute supports using state funds for new voting machines, but as I mentioned to this Committee last week, the capital budget -- and not a separate funding bill -- is the more appropriate legislative vehicle for funding state infrastructure and core government responsibilities. Funding for voting machines should have been included in the capital budget, and to the extent that a separate mechanism, such as S.B. 135, is used instead, then the capital budget should be off-set by the corresponding amount in order to maintain longer-term spending balance.

Finding cost off-sets in the capital budget to pay for upgrading voting machines is not difficult. Many of the line items listed in our Top 10 Worst Capital Budget Requests of 2018 [4] could be cut or eliminated to pay for replacing our outdated voting machines, including \$4 million for a Cincinnati soccer stadium, \$5 million for retail and restaurant space at COSI in Columbus, and \$400,000 on ill-advised, government-owned broadband networks throughout the state. Reducing state funding for locally-focused projects would make it easier to afford new election machines and other infrastructure needs such as sewers and wastewater treatment facilities.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to answering any questions that the Committee may have.

[1] Greg R. Lawson and Quinn Beeson, *Principled Spending: Using Ohio's Capital Budget to Benefit Ohioans*, The Buckeye Institute, February 5, 2018.

[2] President Ronald Reagan, *Statement About the Extension of the Voting Rights Act*, November 6, 1981.

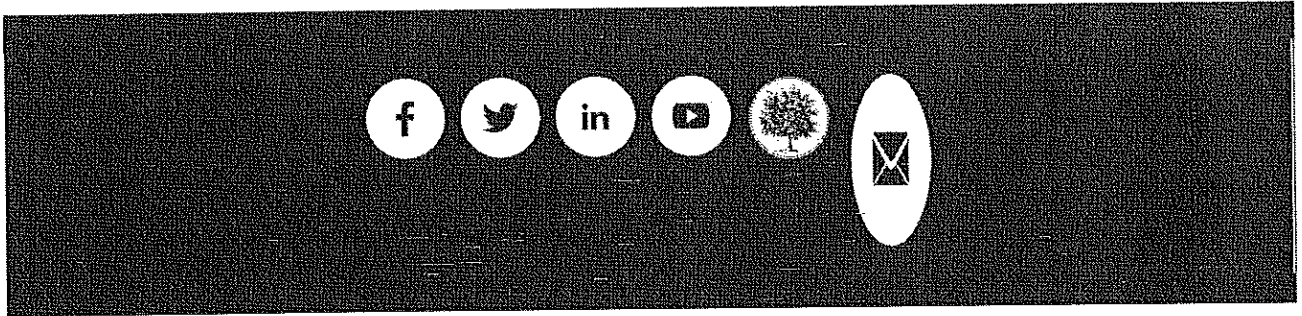
[3] *Husted Calls for Replacement of Ohio's Aging Voting Equipment*, Ohio Secretary of State Office press release, December 14, 2017.

[4] *More Than \$18 Million Spent on The Buckeye Institute's Top 10 List of Worst Capital Budget Requests*, The Buckeye Institute press release, March 5, 2018.

###

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Rep93
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 4:19 PM
To: Snider, Grace
Subject: FW: Urging Your Support for Sub. HB 189 Before the Spring Recess
Attachments: Eric_Bakken_Regis Corporation_Sub_HB_189_Letter_Of_Support_Signed.pdf; 2018_0316 OSA Ltr to All Ohio House Members Urging Support for Sub HB 189 - FINAL.pdf

From: Fiore, Anthonio [mailto:tfiore@keglerbrown.com]
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 7:03 PM
To: Fiore, Anthonio <tfiore@keglerbrown.com>
Cc: Elizabeth Murch <elizabeth@ohiosalonassociation.com>
Subject: Urging Your Support for Sub. HB 189 Before the Spring Recess

Dear Ohio House members,

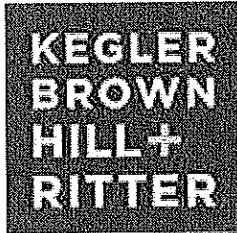
We are writing to ask for your **support** and **expeditious passage** of the **occupational licensure reforms** to Ohio's cosmetology industry contained in **Sub.HB 189** before the Spring recess. The announcement this week of more private cosmetology schools closing makes it more important than ever to pass the reforms contained in **Sub. HB 189**. **Six additional school closures** were announced bringing the total number to **28 closures since May 2015** (or around 30%). In addition, we have included a few items raised by opponents that we are willing to work on in the Senate if the bill is favorably passed off the House floor.

I've also attached a list of all public testimony on **HB 189**. In addition the **letters of support from smaller salon owners** around the state, we just received the attached letter of support from Regis Corp that has over 30 brands under its umbrella with hundreds of locations across all 88 counties.

Have a great weekend. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Tony



Antonio C. Fiore
Of Counsel

65 East State Street | Suite 1800 | Columbus, OH 43215
direct (614) 462-5428 | mobile (614) 906-8669 | fax (614) 464-2634
afiore@keglerbrown.com

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5th Hearing – March 7, 2018

Bill	Status	Amendments	Fiscal Notes	Analysis
H. B. No. 189	5th Hearing	—	Download	Download
Witness	Organization	Stance	Document	
Wezlynn Davis	null	Opponent	Download	
Patrick Thompson	null	Opponent	Download	
Don Boyd	Ohio Chamber of Commerce	Proponent	Download	
Sue Carter Moore	Ohio Association of Cosmetology Schools	Opponent	Download	
Nancy Brown	Brown Aveda Institute	Opponent	Download	
Brandon Ogden	null	Proponent	Download	
Natalie Lockhart	JCPenney Salon	Proponent	Download	

4th Hearing – February 27, 2018

Bill	Status	Amendments	Fiscal Notes	Analysis
H. B. No. 189	4th Hearing	132_1073-3	Download	Download
Witness	Organization		Stance	Document
Isa Nelson	null		Proponent	Download

Ohio Salon Association	null	Proponent	Download
Don Boyd	null	Proponent	Download
Clara Osterhage	null	Proponent	Download
Chris Ferruso	NFIB	Proponent	Download

3rd Hearing – June 21, 2017

Bill	Status	Amendments	Fiscal Notes	Analysis
H. B. No. 189	3 rd Hearing	–	Download	Download

Witness	Organization	Stance	Document
Greg Lawson	The Buckeye Institute	Interested Party	Download
Michael Shuh	null	Proponent	Download
Mahlana Yeager	null	Proponent	Download
Dana Pallatos	null	Proponent	Download
Bridget Sharpe	Professional Beauty Association	Proponent	Download
Myra Reddy	Future of Beauty Industry Coalition	Proponent	Download
NeCale Cumberlander	null	Proponent	Download
Rowena Yeager	null	Proponent	Download
Beth Hickey	null	Proponent	Download
David Boucher Additional	null	Proponent	Download
David Boucher	null	Proponent	Download
Rachelle King	null	Proponent	Download
Kerry Sawyer	null	Proponent	Download
Nancy Brown	null	Opponent	Download
Wezlynn VanDyke Davis	null	Opponent	Download
Patrick Thompson	null	Opponent	Download
Angela Harvey	null	Opponent	Download
Jill Hawkins Mitchell	null	Opponent	Download
Gerry Reis	null	Opponent	Download
Will Molden	null	Opponent	Download
Chris Ferruso	NFIB	Proponent	Download

2nd Hearing – May 23, 2017

Bill	Status	Amendments	Fiscal Notes	Analysis
H. B. No. 189	2 nd Hearing	–	Download	Download

Witness	Organization	Stance	Document
Tony More	Ohio Salon Association	Proponent	Download
Clara Osterhage	null	Proponent	Download
Charles Penzone	The Charles Penzone Salons	Proponent	Download
Frank Gambuzza	null	Proponent	Download
For Yeager	Sport Clips	Proponent	Download
Debra Lilly	null	Proponent	Download
Stefan Eckert	Great Clips	Proponent	Download
Bridget Sharpe	Professional Beauty Association	Proponent	Download
Frank Schoeneman	Empire Education Group	Proponent	Download
Tom Quick and Lisa Groome	Roosters Men's Grooming Center	Proponent	Download
Tasha Shepline	null	Proponent	Download
Gordon Logan	Sports Clips	Proponent	Download
Dub Nelson	Roosters Men's Grooming Centers	Proponent	Download

1st Hearing – May 17, 2017

Bill	Status	Amendments	Fiscal Notes	Analysis
H. B. No. 189	1st Hearing	—	Download	Download

Witness	Organization	Stance	Document
Rep Roegner	null	Proponent	Download
Rep Reece	null	Proponent	Download

REGIS

7201 Metro Boulevard | Minneapolis, MN 55439 | 952-947-7777

March 15, 2018

To: All Ohio House of Representatives

From: Eric Bakken
EVP, President—Franchise

RE: Urging your support for Sub. HB 189

My name is Eric Bakken, and I serve as the Executive Vice President and President—Franchise for Regis Corporation. I'm writing to urge your support for Sub. HB 189.

Regis Corporation is a leader in beauty salons and cosmetology education. As of December 31, 2017, the we owned, operated, franchised or held ownership interests in over 8,800 locations worldwide. We also maintain an ownership interest in Empire Education Group in the U.S. Regis owns or franchises 386 salon locations in Ohio, amounting to over 2,000 stylists and managers in the state. We operate under several brands in all 88 counties throughout Ohio, including: Best Cuts, Borics Hair Care, Famous Hair, Fiesta Salons, First Choice Haircutters, Haircrafters, Mastercuts, Regis Salons, Roosters, Saturdays, SmartStyle, and Supercuts.

At Regis, we are deeply committed to providing our customers with the safest and highest quality experience in our salons. To achieve this, we ensure our stylists and managers are properly educated and licensed in accordance with state regulations. We also offer our team members continued education and training to refine their skills, keep on trend and to stay in tune with the latest sanitary protocols. However, our industry has become increasingly competitive, most of which is attributable to a shortage in skilled labor. That's why for over four years, Regis has supported a group called the Future of the Beauty Industry Coalition (FBIC) whose main purpose is to provide reasonable reforms to state cosmetology law using research and analytics from all 50 states.

The FBIC consists of cosmetologists, students, salon owners, manufacturers, distributors, and cosmetology schools. The FBIC values our industry's appreciation of safety and quality, and therefore has proposed Sub. HB 189 which modifies the existing law and reduces the Ohio license minimum hour requirements from 1,500 to 1,000, as opposed to a complete deregulation of the industry. In addition, Sub. HB 189 lays the groundwork for model occupational licensing reform legislation for the cosmetology industry in all 50 states and helps to eliminate a barrier of entry into our industry.

The minimum 1,500 hours state licensing requirement serves as a barrier of entry into the beauty industry. In addition, Ohio's reciprocity law requires a licensee to sit for an Ohio exam even though they may have passed another state's licensing exam a month or so before. This doesn't help our stylist be mobile in deciding where to work and live, especially near Ohio's boarding counties. Sub. HB 189 reduces the hours to 1,000 hours for a full cosmetology license and helps out of state licensees come to Ohio to work and raise a family.

For these reasons, I am writing on behalf of Regis Corporation in support of the Ohio Salon Association's proposed comprehensive reform package to Ohio's cosmetology laws contained in Sub. HB 189 (and the

REGIS CORPORATION
7201 Metro Boulevard | Minneapolis, MN 55439 | 952-947-7777

companion bill in the Ohio Senate, SB 129). This reform is a positive step for our industry, and I respectfully request this committee's support on the work being done here.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to submit this letter in support of Sub. HB 189.



Eric Bakken
EVP, President—Franchise
Regis Corporation



OSA

OHIO SALON ASSOCIATION

March 16, 2018

Dear Representative:

We are writing to ask for your support and expeditious passage of the occupational licensure reforms to Ohio's cosmetology industry contained in Sub. HB 189 next Wednesday, March 21, 2018. The announcement this week of more private cosmetology schools closing makes it more important than ever to pass the reforms contained in Sub. HB 189. Six additional school closures were announced bringing the total number to 28 closures since May 2015 (around 30%). In addition, we have included a few items raised by opponents that we are willing to work on in the Senate if the bill is favorably passed off the House floor.

Sub. HB 189 will:

- 1) **Support Ohio's Attainment Goal 2025**, that includes:
 - a) helping more Ohioans compete for quality jobs that pay a family-sustaining wage and lead to career advancement;
 - b) removing barriers to education and employment for individuals;
 - c) helping Ohio employers find the talent they need to succeed and grow;
 - d) providing effective and efficient job training aligned to in-demand occupations and employer needs resulting in workplace-valued credentials; and
 - e) assisting in achieving the attainment goal of the Governor's Executive Workforce Board, Ohio Department of Education and Ohio Department of Higher Education to have 65% of Ohioans ages 25 to 65 achieve a credential/license or degree by 2025. (Ohioans are currently at 43% of that attainment goal.)
- 2) **Lower hours to reduce the barrier for women, men and minorities to enter the beauty industry.**
The bill:
 - a) supports the notion that government should only mandate the minimum number of hours necessary to ensure safe and sanitary cosmetology practices as a barrier to entry into the profession – **1,000 hours is the correct requirement** – though some believe this is still too many hours;
 - b) equalizes the government mandated hours between public and private schools. Public schools in Ohio are already teaching at 1,000 hours and producing graduates who are entering the workforce with similar graduation rates, licensure rates and earning potential;
 - c) maintains high training standards without mandating an additional 500 hours on private school students. A national study as well as salon owners indicate that **more time in school does not make the student more job ready**;
 - d) acknowledges that there are currently more public students entering the profession at 1,000 hours of training rather than private schools at 1,500 hours;
 - e) ensures private schools are still able to obtain federal funding for students at 1,000 hours, can require 500 additional hours and charge whatever they want for tuition – the question is whether students will be willing to pay for and attend such programs – the free market will decide; and,
 - f) creates an apprenticeship option for future cosmetology students to earn a wage while they learn about the beauty industry. Under today's 1,500-hour program students are forced to pay tuition and provide services to the public in school clinics without compensation for hundreds of hours.

- 3) Stop Ohio law from unfairly requiring private cosmetology education mandating 1,500 hours at the expense of students when public schools already teach at 1,000 hours. There is no risk to public safety if a cosmetologist attending a private school achieves 1,000 hours for a license just like the public school student does today. In Ohio today:

- Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) attend 150 hours of training.
- Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) attend 1376 hours of training.
- Police officers attend 695 hours of training.
- Paramedics attend 800 hours of training.

- 4) Make Ohio a "RECIPROCITY-IN" state—our focus must be on job opportunities in Ohio. Many states do not require licensees to take any additional education or even an exam when seeking reciprocity after one to two years of practicing as was indicated by a recent LSC review. The bill:

- a) removes the requirement of taking exams in Ohio if already licensed in another state;
- b) removes the requirement that the standards in Ohio for obtaining the license the applicant seeks are substantially equal to the other state or country's requirements;
- c) allows licensees to enter the workforce sooner with less debt;
- d) permits work experience/hours to count towards licensing hours when seeking to transfer a license to another state;
- e) requires the Ohio Board to use a national exam which makes our licensees more marketable in other states; and,
- f) maintains high standards, but makes it easier to practice in Ohio than in most states.

Although private school opponents have refused to attend interested party meetings we have addressed several issues raised by them and have highlighted the changes below. These changes are in Sub. HB 189. The substitute bill:

- a) permits pre-graduate testing to help increase licensure rates;
- b) returns manieuring hours from 100 to 200;
- c) returns esthetics hours from 300 to 600;
- d) removes the 5-year experience requirement for instructors;
- e) removes the language increasing the surety bond from \$10,000 to \$100,000 for schools; and,
- f) requires salons and schools of cosmetology to work in partnership to establish the apprenticeship program.

As mentioned above, the OSA has been trying to address as many of the opponents concerns as possible throughout this legislative process. We are committed to working on the following issues raised by the opponents in the Senate if Sub. HB 189 passes out of the House:

Opponents concern: *Getting rid of the advanced license is deregulating our profession.*

- **OSA Response:** The advanced license doesn't provide students with marketable skills that garner a higher wage and is not recognized in other states. Since it was created a few years ago schools did not adapt and work to provide input on curriculum to make it valuable. Schools can still offer 1,500 hours' worth of classes or any other advanced classes they wish. There is no law preventing them from offering classes that exceed the minimum. And funding is available for up to 1,500 hours so they can get paid. The state should only legislate minimums for occupational licenses that are barriers to entry into a profession. In reality private schools combine the initial license at 1,500 hours and the advanced license at 300 hours and require students to attend and pay for an 1,800-hour program. This cannot be the case in the future.
- **OSA Compromise:** The OSA will support changing Sub. HB 189 in the Senate to preserve the Advance License for those licensees as of the effective date of the bill, so those individuals can indefinitely renew this license. This still provides any school the opportunity to create an Advanced

Certificate program, but such a program will not carry with it state mandated hours. Schools are free to provide cosmetology programs above the 1,000-hour requirement under Sub. HB 189 – the question is whether students will pay for the additional training and education – the free market will decide.

Opponents concern: *Natural Hair Styling license is valuable and should stay. It negatively affects ethnic populations to get rid of it including salon owners.*

- **OSA Response:** The first time OSA heard opposition to removing the Natural Hair Stylist license came on Wednesday, March 7th in the House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee hearing on Sub. HB 189.
- This license is not widely utilized—and it is quite burdensome at 450 hours of education to sit for the licensing exam. For instance, based on the Board's 2017 Annual Report there were 5 active and one new individuals with a natural hair stylist license, one active and one new individuals had a natural hair stylist instructor license, 34 active and 45 new individuals had an advanced natural hair stylist license, and there were 14 active and 4 newly licensed natural hair stylist salons. Compare this to 17,639 active and 2,708 new cosmetology licensees for the same period.
- **OSA compromise:** With that said, so long as the braiding registration stays in the law, we would compromise to allow the natural hair stylist license to stay in as well.

Opponents concern: *The way the definitions are in this bill make hair design the same as cosmetology at 800 hours.*

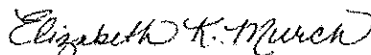
- **OSA Response:** The Ohio State Cosmetology and Barbering Board staff provided the language in the bill to clarify the practice of cosmetology which was included in the substitute bill.
 - Their intent was that cosmetology is defined as providing all the branches of cosmetology, and they believed the definition of cosmetology could not include cosmetology.
 - There has never been an intention of having a full cosmetology license 800-hour program as the opponents claim.
- **OSA compromise:** The OSA supports amending the final bill in the Senate to clarify and make clear that a full cosmetology license requires 1,000 hours, a hair design license requires 800 hours, an esthetics license requires 600 hours, a manicuring license requires 200 hours and a natural hair stylist license requires 450 hours.

The opponents should actually work with salon owners to address significant issues in the beauty industry, especially the fact that 28 private schools of cosmetology (or 30%) have abruptly closed their doors since May of 2015 and we expect more. These closures have required students to find alternate programs to finish their training very little to compensate them for these schools failing to help them become licensed and find employment in the beauty industry.

The Ohio Salon Association is focused on cosmetology student success, school success and addressing workforce issues for all salons and job providers in Ohio.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We have attached a list of business owners as well as state and national associations supporting HB 189 and SB 129.

Please feel free to contact our lobbyist, Tony Fiore, at afiore@keglerbrown.com or 614-462-5428 if you have any questions about this legislation.


Elizabeth Murch
Executive Director


Tony Fiore
Legislative Counsel

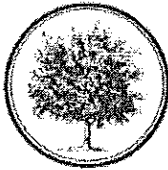
Supporters of Ohio HB 189 and SB 129

Arthur Gray Holdings, Inc.	Holiday Hair	QuickGroome, Inc. - Roosters
Beauty Supply Outlet	Hyland MH Retreats, LLC	Quiddity Partners, LLC
Best Cuts	Hyland Properties, LLC	R.L.O., Inc.
Bhooshay Enterprises of Ohio, LLC	Institute for Justice	Rachelle King
Blue Co. Brands	Intercoiffure America/Canada	RamseyRooney & Co.
Borics Hair Care	International Salon/Spa	Regis Salon
Burben Investments, Inc.	Business Network	S&L Cuts, Inc.
Carlton Hair	j.calico, LLC	SARJNT, Inc.
Charles Penzone, Inc.	JaNaMo Enterprises, Inc.	Sassoon Salon
Cincy Clips, Inc.	Jay-Mar Enterprises, LLC	Saturday's Hair Salon
City Looks Salons	JC Penney Salons	Sawyer Business Group, Inc.
Cool Cuts	JM Elliott Enterprise, LLC	Scott Burandt
Cost Cutters	Kerry and Anthony Sawyer	SDM Partners, Inc.
Courtne Wesselman	Lake House Holdings, LLC	Shaun Norton dba SportClips
CSJ Ventures, Inc.	Laventure, Inc.	Signature Style Salons
DANDREA, LLC	LGC Properties Management	SmartStyle Hair Salons
Daniel Feiwell – No LLC	LST Clips, Inc.	SportClips
Demer Retail Ventures, LLC	M&M Wardeiner, Inc.	SRL Clips, LLC
Eckert, Inc. dba Great Clips	Majicuts	Studio Wish Salon
Empire Beauty Schools	MasterCuts	Style America
Esquire Holdings, LLC	Maxco, Inc.	Supercuts
Famous Hair	Maxxco, LLC	Tasha Sheipline
Fiesta Salons	Michael's Salon and Spa	TGF Hair Salon
FirstChoice HairCutters	MMAO, LLC	The 220 Group, Ltd.
Future of the Beauty Industry Coalition	NeCole Cumberlander	Professional Beauty Association
Gem City Clips	NFIB/Ohio	The Visage Group
Gold Coast Ventures, LLC	North Coast Partners, LLC	Tillery Enterprises, Inc.
Great Clips	Norton Clips, LLC	Tillery Salons, Inc.
Great Expectations	Oakpoint Partners, Inc.	TJTKR Enterprises, Inc.
Hair Crafters	Ohio Chamber of Commerce	Trinity Leadership 6, LLC
Hair Masters	Ohio Salon Association	Trinity Leadership 7, LLC
Hair Plus	Outlooks for Hair	Ulta
Head Start Haircare	Panopoulos Salons	Vanity Ventures, Inc.
	Park 50 Clips, LLC	We Care Hair
	Pro Cuts	

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 10:17 AM
To: Snider, Grace
Subject: Buckeye Highlights New Research on Negative Economic Impact of Ohio's Growing Regulatory System

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice-President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 21, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

Buckeye Highlights New Research on Negative Economic Impact of Ohio's Growing Regulatory System

Columbus, OH -- At a press conference with Ohio Senate President Larry Obhof and Dr. James Broughel, a research fellow with the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, **The Buckeye Institute's** president and chief executive officer Robert Alt highlighted the negative impact of government regulations on Ohio's economic growth and the burden of occupational licensing specifically.

The press conference released **A Snapshot of Ohio Regulation in 2018**, which found that Ohio is one of the most heavily regulated states with nearly 247,000 restrictions, far more than neighboring states like Michigan, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and West Virginia.

"We have long known that Ohio's regulatory system is hurting our economy and hurting Ohio workers. This new Mercatus research draws a stark comparison between what businesses and employees in Ohio experience versus our neighboring states," said Robert Alt, president and chief executive officer at The Buckeye Institute. "This isn't just a story of the number of regulations, this is a story of people. People who want to enter a new career field but can't due to the costs. People who want a promotion at work they are qualified for save for a simple piece of paper that says the word license. People who want to build a better future for themselves and their families. We must remember these people when looking at occupational licensing."

The Impact of Occupational Licensing

- Ohio likely sacrifices tens of thousands of potential jobs due to occupational licensing.
- A report by **The Buckeye Institute** found that the burden of Ohio's occupational licensing requirements has a greater impact on middle-aged and low-income workers, and those without a college degree.
- According to the **Hamilton Project**, 18 percent of Ohioans require an occupational license in order to earn a living in their chosen profession.
- A **W.E. Upjohn Institute** study revealed that the cost of hiring a licensed worker is approximately 15 percent higher than an unlicensed worker with the same level of experience doing the same job.
- **The Foundation for Economic Education** found that households in Ohio could save \$775 per year with occupational licensing reform.

In his remarks, Alt highlighted the story of Dawn Hochwalt, a salon manager from Dayton, Ohio who sees first-hand how Ohio's burdensome regulations impact her employees and her business, with little to no benefit to public health and safety. She also sees the impact the rising costs of cosmetology school has on her colleagues whose wages are being garnished to repay student loans. As Hochwalt said recently, "When I was in school it cost around \$6,000 to go to school and get a license, now that cost is \$20,000 or more. That debt is putting a tremendous burden on young people and the 1,500 hours they need to earn their license means they are not able to get on the salon floor to earn a living and pay off their debt."

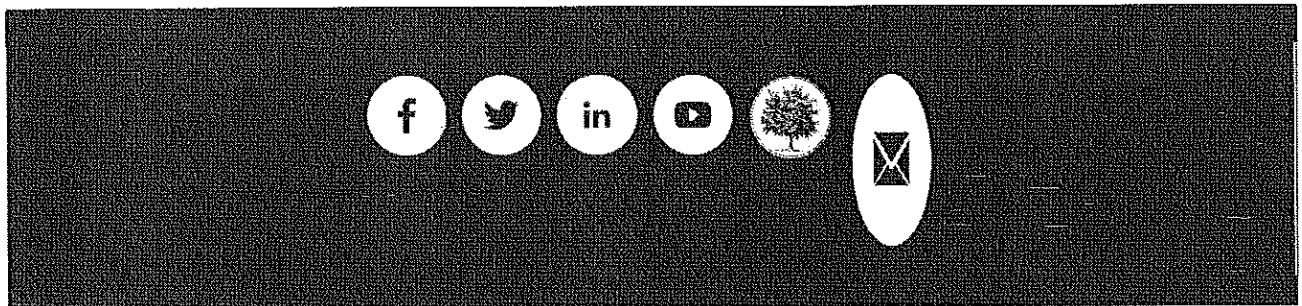
Reforms such as those found in Senate Bill 255, which would permit licensing only in clear cut and verifiable cases to ensure public safety, and reforms such as those found in House Bill 189, which would lower the number of hours needed for a cosmetology license from

1,500 to 1,000 (the same number of hours as required in New York) would make it easier for Ohioans to begin their careers, earn a living, and move ahead in their chosen field.

###

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The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street, Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

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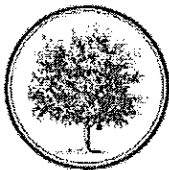
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From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, March 21, 2018 10:27 AM
To: Snider, Grace
Subject: A truly free lunch *today in Columbus!

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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

When you were growing up, your dutiful parents may have taught you (correctly so) that there is no such thing as a free lunch.

However, due to Arthur Brooks' flight cancellation, we had to cancel our luncheon event with him today at noon at the Athletic Club of Columbus.

As a result, we still have 80 pre-paid meals that we are on the hook for.

It's pan seared chicken, red skin mashed potatoes, and asparagus. Brownies too.

In an act of simultaneous frugality and generosity, we invite all of you to join our Buckeye staff in a consolation lunch that is free to all comers today only.

Please come on over if you are in Columbus and would like to show your parents that they were wrong just this one time.

Again, free lunch on Buckeye. No obligation. No program to listen to.
= A

Noon. Athletic Club of Columbus. Second Floor. Crystal Room. TODAY!

###

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Support The Buckeye Institute!



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From: Health Policy Institute of Ohio
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Subject: Join HPIO for an online seminar on connections between income and health

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Connections between income and health



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When

Friday, April 6, 2018 from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM EDT

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Where

This is an online event.

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More than a century of research has found strong connections between income and health. As a group, people with higher incomes live longer and experience better mental and physical health outcomes. Understanding how income influences health can inform policies, programs and resource allocation to improve both the health and economic wellbeing of Ohioans.

Health Policy Institute of Ohio will host a webinar to share highlights from a recent publication, **Connections between Income Health**. A panel of experts will discuss current state-level initiatives to improve incomes and employment opportunities for Ohioans.

Speakers include:

- **Michael Evans**, Project Manager, Ohio Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation
- **Greg R. Lawson**, Research Fellow, The Buckeye Institute
- **Zach Reat**, Health Policy Analyst, Health Policy Institute of Ohio

up for the webinar using the GoToWebinar website.

Kalitha Williams, Policy Liaison, Policy Matters Ohio

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Register Now!

After you register for the event you will receive an email confirmation with the webinar link and login credentials. You will need to sign up for the webinar using the GoToWebinar website to be able to view the webinar on 4/6/2018. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Alana Clark-Kirk, aclarkkirk@hpio.net.

Sincerely,

Alana Clark-Kirk
Health Policy Institute of Ohio
aclarkkirk@healthpolicyohio.org
614-545-0755

Health Policy Institute of Ohio, 10 W Broad St,
Suite 1150, Columbus, OH 43215

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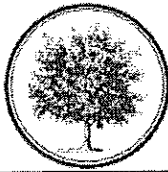


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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

It's Time to Cut Ohio's Film Tax Credit

By Quinn Beeson and Tyler Shankel
March 23, 2018

It's not often that **The Buckeye Institute** agrees with **Policy Matters Ohio**, but when it comes to opposing the increase of the special interest motion picture tax credit, we do!

Policymakers are proposing increasing this special interest film tax credit, currently capped at \$40 million a year, to a whopping \$100 million annually and broadening it to include some Broadway productions, claiming that this tax credit will incentivize Hollywood and Broadway producers to set up shop in Ohio. What it really does is waste your tax dollars on a multi-billion-dollar industry that doesn't need handouts from Ohioans.

This proposal would cost **Ohio's General Revenue Fund** \$58 million and local government and public libraries an additional \$2 million annually. The Ohio Legislative

Service Commission has estimated that the bill will result in a \$60 million loss in total revenue per year.

One example of a state who has already gone through this issue is Massachusetts and its own film tax credit. According to **their annual report in 2011**, the spending cuts necessary to pay for the tax credit resulted in more than 1,400 lost jobs, so only 222 jobs were gained statewide, at a cost of \$325,000 each. In **their 2014 report**, they found the program actually destroyed more jobs than it created in 2010. From 2006 until 2014, this tax incentive has only generated \$0.14 in revenue for every dollar spent, costing Massachusetts \$471.6 million.

When alternative job creation policies are considered, it becomes clear that the inconsistencies and costs of such special interest tax credits makes them a poor policy choice, and all the supposed gains appear paltry in the face of smarter alternatives. In 2011, **North Carolina compared their film tax credit to an across-the-board reduction in taxes of the same value**. The incentive was estimated to have created 50-70 new jobs, while a business tax reduction would create 370-450 new jobs, cost the same, and benefit all businesses equally-not just well-connected filmmakers.

When it comes down to it, Ohio taxpayers should not be giving handouts to movie and Broadway producers. Extending this film credit will only hurt Ohioans and Ohio's businesses. Ohio policymakers should nix the film tax credit altogether, as we suggested the **last time** an increased cap was proposed, just two years ago.

Ohio taxpayers' hard-earned money would be better spent on projects that benefit the entire state, not just those benefiting the entertainment industry.

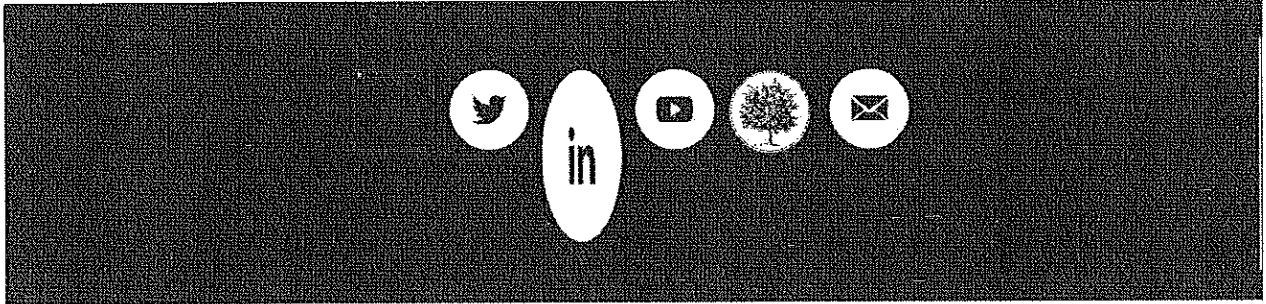
Quinn Beeson is an economic research analyst and Tyler Shankel is an economic policy analyst. Both are with The Buckeye Institute's Economic Research Center.

###

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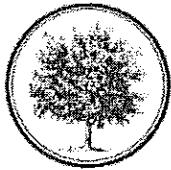
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March 23, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute: Ohio's Unemployment Rate and Job Growth Moving in the Right Direction

Columbus, OH -- Andrew J. Kidd, Ph.D., an economist at The Buckeye Institute's **Economic Research Center (ERC)** commented on newly released employment data from the **Ohio Department of Job and Family Services**.

"Ohio's unemployment rate continued its downward trend from 4.7 percent in January to 4.5 percent in February, showing positive trends in the state's labor market. The report also revealed a relatively unchanged labor force participation rate, which implies that those who were searching for jobs found them. This is good news for job seekers.

"However, Ohio still sits above the national unemployment rate of 4.1 percent, and with a lower labor force participation rate than the national average. This shows that Ohio still

needs further reforms to create and sustain job growth, and one area ripe for reform is **occupational licensing**.

"Ohio experienced another great job creation month with a 19,600 increase in non-farm private employment in February 2018, more than double the growth from January 2018. This marks consistent gains over the past two months, indicating Ohio's labor market is continuing to expand. Nearly every sector experienced job growth, with substantial increases in manufacturing (2,900) and health care and social assistance (3,700). Employment in the health care industry will be important to responding to the health needs of an aging population in Ohio. Although there was a decrease in employment in arts, entertainment, and recreation, special interest tax credits for the entertainment industry are **not a cost-effective policy solution** to increasing growth in this industry.

"Ohio is continuing to see positive job growth path, yet an unchanged labor force participation rate is concerning as it shows some individuals are discouraged from job searching. Occupational licensing reform can reduce those disincentives, and, combined with eliminating special interest tax credits, will help Ohio to reach its goal of being a national leader in job creation."

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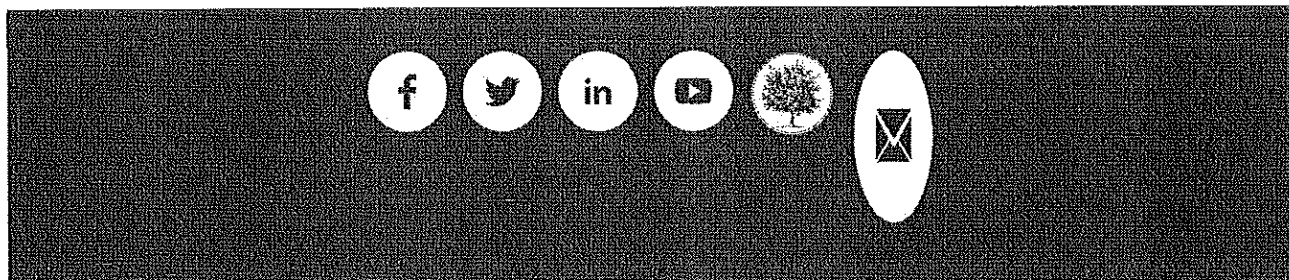
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The panelists are:

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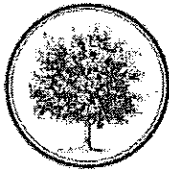
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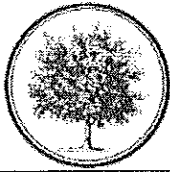
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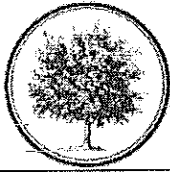
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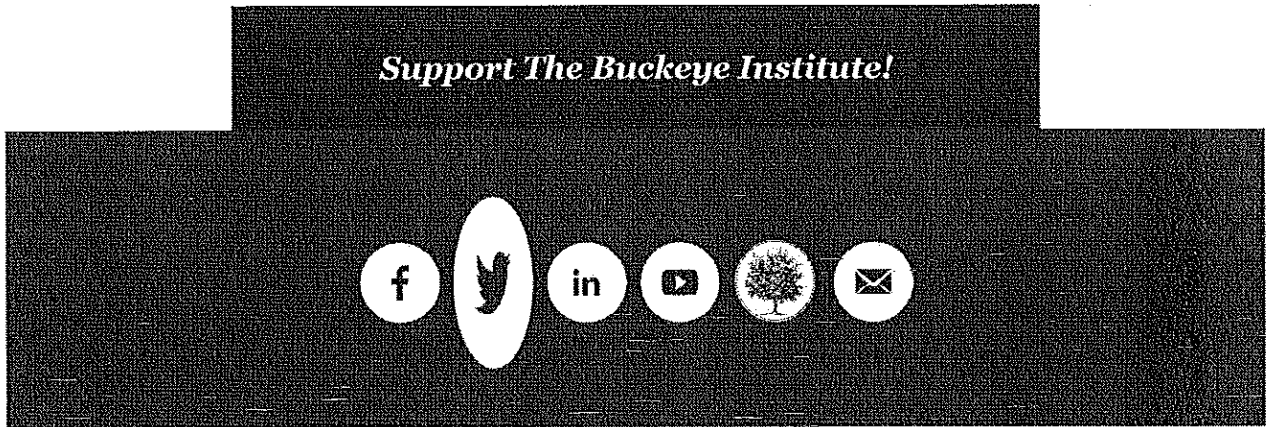
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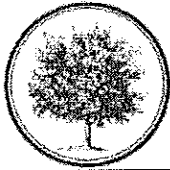
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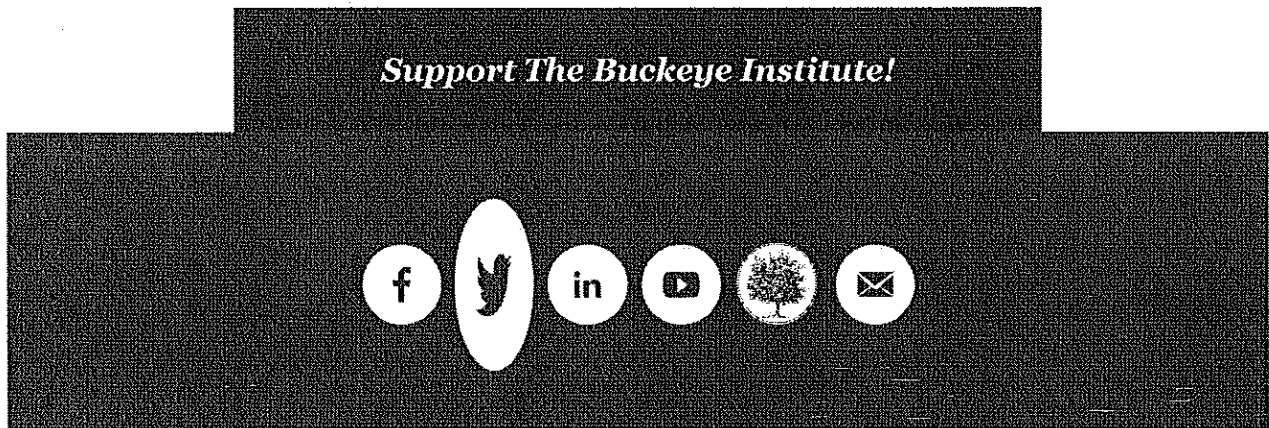
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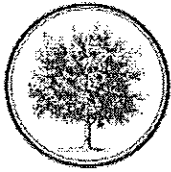
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March 27, 2018

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The Buckeye Institute Names Dr. Andrew Kidd as New Economist with its Economic Research Center

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute announced today that Andrew J. Kidd, Ph.D., has joined its **Economic Research Center** as a senior level economist. In this role, Kidd will conduct and produce original economic research that looks at and analyzes the impact of state and federal policies on peoples' lives and on the economy.

"We are pleased to have **Dr. Kidd** join our team and help lead our efforts to produce reliable economic research and data analysis that looks at how government policies and proposals impact state budgets and our wallets," said Robert Alt, president and chief executive officer of The Buckeye Institute. "This type of research is vital for policymakers around the country as they work to understand how their proposals will affect government revenues, economic growth, and job creation."

A native Ohioan, Kidd received his bachelor's degree in economics and mathematics from the **University of Notre Dame** before completing his master's degree and his doctorate in economics from the **University of Wisconsin-Madison**. Kidd has served as a research assistant at the **UW Population Health Institute** at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he was involved in research that looked at the impact of premium policy changes to BadgerCare, Wisconsin's health care coverage program for low-income Wisconsin residents.

During his time at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Kidd's research focus was in demography, education, labor outcomes, and the effects of public policy on labor, education, and health outcomes.

Tyler Shankel also joined Buckeye's Economic Research Center as an economic policy analyst. Shankel earned his bachelor's degree in economics and a minor in Persian from **The Ohio State University**. There, he worked on a comprehensive policy analysis project examining land tenure reform on Indian reservations, and other policy issues relating to economic development in Native American communities. He attended the **University of Colorado Boulder's** economics doctorate program before returning to Columbus.

"Andrew and Tyler are great additions to our team and their work and research will benefit not just policymakers in Ohio and throughout the country, but it will benefit ordinary citizens who want to know how budgetary and tax policy proposals will affect them and pocketbooks," said Rea S. Hederman, executive director of the Economic Research Center and vice president of policy at The Buckeye Institute.

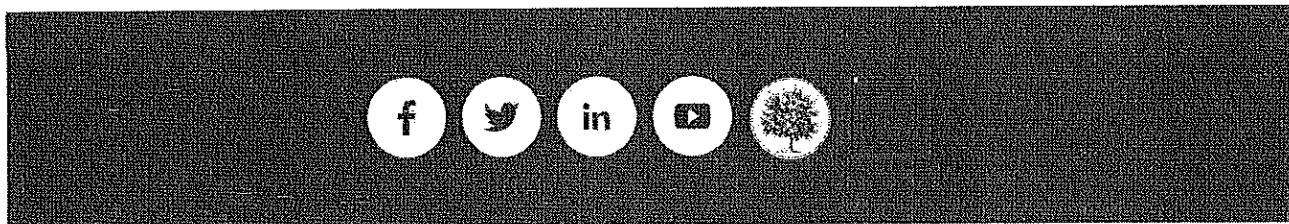
The Economic Research Center at The Buckeye Institute provides reliable economic research, data analysis, and econometric modeling at the state level. Using a macroeconomic dynamic scoring model -- developed by economists at the Economic Research Center -- ERC research shows how even small policy changes affect state budgets, citizens' pocketbooks, and individual behavior.

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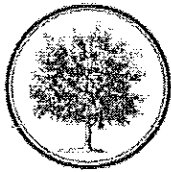
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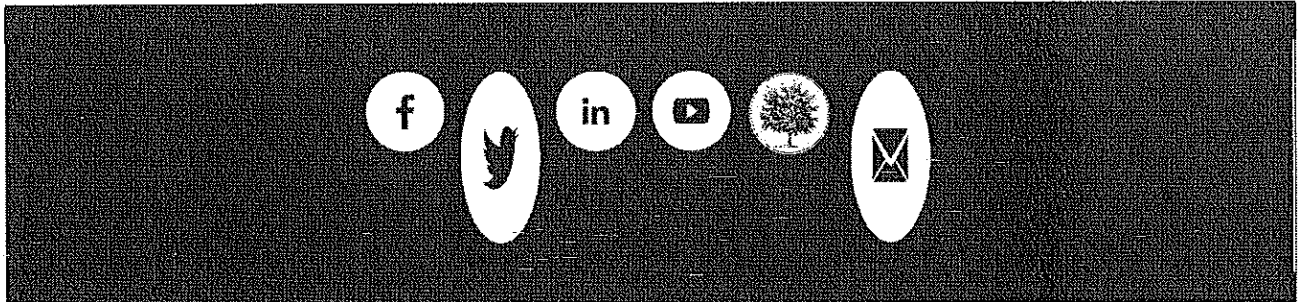
Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute issued the following statement regarding the proposal to raise the threshold for salaried employees to be eligible for overtime.

"All Ohioans should earn a fair wage for the work they do. Unfortunately, this proposed increase to the overtime threshold will not accomplish this laudable goal. Employers will look for ways to ensure there are no net increases to their employee costs, including lowering base salaries and layoffs," said Greg R. Lawson, research fellow at The Buckeye Institute. "The real answer to stagnating wages in Ohio is to create more jobs and higher paying jobs. This will empower workers to be able to find alternative employment if they are not being given a fair shake by their current employer."

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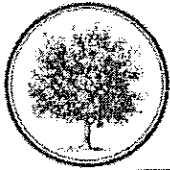
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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Ending Burdensome Regulations is a Promise Ohio Leaders Should Make Today

By Greg R. Lawson

April 4, 2018

Every Ohioan deserves the opportunity to build a better life for themselves and their family, and few things have a greater impact on that than a growing economy.

Unfortunately, while the **latest Ohio job numbers** were solid, private-sector job growth remains below the national average and recent **research from The Ohio State University** found that "Ohio has witnessed a steady decline in its economic well-being, compared to the nation as a whole, for more than 60 years."

And while there are no silver bullet solutions to Ohio's job challenges, rolling back government red tape, particularly in the area of occupational licensing, can remove barriers to job opportunities and career advancement. As our President Robert Alt **has**

said of the burden imposed on Ohioans by the presence of too many rules, "This isn't just a story of the number of regulations, this is a story of people."

A **Gordian Knot** of rules hampers the prosperity of too many Ohioans as they become lost in a maze of rules, regulations, and government permission slips. Take **Jennifer McClellan** as an example.

Despite years of training and work experience in Minnesota, the Ohio State Medical Board denied Jennifer an Ohio license. According to the Board, she was ten days shy of the state's training requirements. The board failed to consider Jennifer's years of work experience and refused to honor the license she had already earned in Minnesota. All Jennifer wanted to do was be closer to family and earn a living doing what she was passionate about. She was denied.

Or consider the experience of Dawn Hochwalt, a salon manager from Dayton, Ohio who sees first-hand how Ohio's burdensome regulations impact her employees and her business, with little to no benefit to public health and safety. She also sees the impact the rising costs of cosmetology school has on her colleagues whose wages are being garnished to repay student loans. As Hochwalt said recently, "When I was in school it cost around \$6,000 to go to school and get a license, now that cost is \$20,000 or more. That debt is putting a tremendous burden on young people and the 1,500 hours they need to earn their license means they are not able to get on the salon floor to earn a living and pay off their debt."

With every story like those of Jennifer and Dawn -- people who are blocked from prospering by government rules -- we are all poorer.

Some progress has been made. The Common Sense Initiative has begun to deal with regulatory overreach, prevent bad rules from going forward, and pared others down. However, the fact that all too many rules have yet to be wiped from the books represents a missed opportunity to be bolder and go further.

Worse, it is not clear that there is any stopping the continued growth of Ohio's rulebook - the Ohio Administrative Code. Occupational licensing bills, for example, **continue to proliferate**, which will add yet more regulations on Ohioans.

This is illustrated by the recently released report from the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, **A Snapshot of Ohio Regulation in 2018**. This study found Ohio to

be one of the most heavily regulated states, with nearly 247,000 restrictions, which far outpaces neighbors like Michigan, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and West Virginia.

As The Buckeye Institute has shown in our studies, *Forbidden to Succeed: How Licensure Laws Hold Ohioans Back* and *Still Forbidden to Succeed: The Negative Effects of Occupational Licensing on Ohio's Workforce*, licensing hurts young and minority Ohioans at a disproportionate level. It forces them to comply with **permission-slip policies** that force them to obtain a piece of paper emblazoned with the word "license" just to make a living.

Ending these permission-slip policies is a promise that Ohio leaders should make today.

One way to do this is by pursuing policies that cut red tape, such as:

1. Embrace a stronger direction for the Common Sense Initiative so that it more aggressively rolls back burdensome rules that do little to nothing to protect Ohioans.
2. Empower the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review in ways such as those found in **current legislation** to ensure that regulations are regularly reviewed especially upon evidence of adverse impacts.
3. Ensure regulators are continually reviewing regulations by enacting a cap on new regulations such as the elimination of two rules for every new rule imposed. Leaders could also implement the Canadian province of British Columbia's regulatory cap policy that achieved a 37 percent reduction of regulatory requirements.
4. Make it the official policy of the state to seek the least restrictive form of regulation when a rule is necessary to protect the health and safety of Ohioans.
5. Give the General Assembly **greater tools** over licensure through a robust sunset review for existing licensure laws and a sunrise process for newly proposed licenses.

Calls for occupational licensing and regulatory reform have bi-partisan support. For example, calls to institute a regulatory reform have been made by leaders like Senate President Larry Obhof and echoed by Attorney General Mike DeWine, while reforms to occupational licensing has both Republican and Democrat champions. This is a positive sign but only the beginning of what is required.

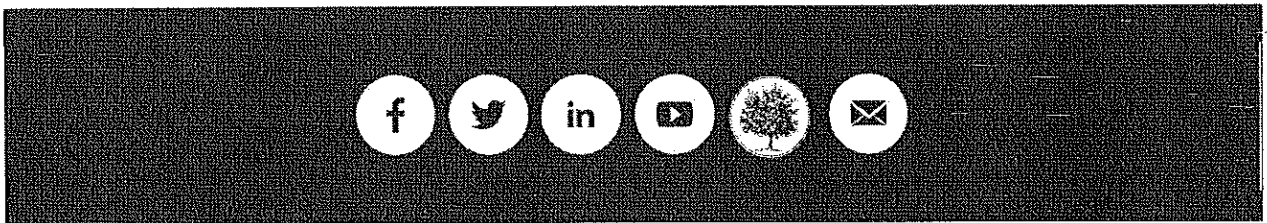
All too often, Ohio creates permission-slip policies that make it harder -- and sometimes impossible -- for Ohioans to pursue their careers and put food on the table for their families. Such policies must end.

Greg R. Lawson is the research fellow at The Buckeye Institute.

###

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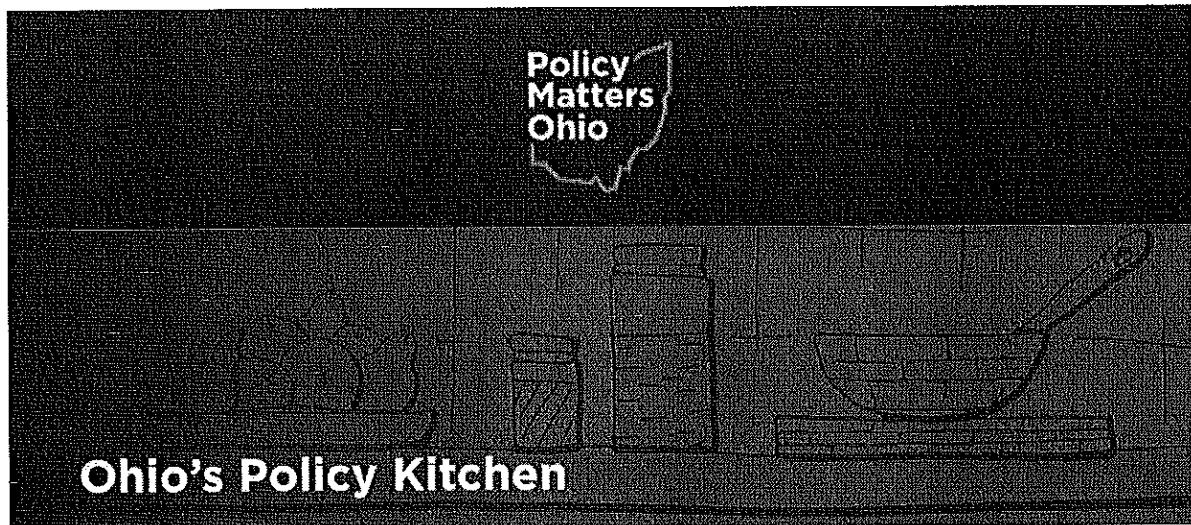
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Embracing Dr. King's "revolution of values"



Today, Americans mark and mourn the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination by a racist white man. But we should also remember what King said 51 years ago, a year to the day before his death. In New York's historic Riverside Church, King called for a "radical revolution of values" that would "remove those conditions of poverty, insecurity, and injustice." King made explicit the connections between civil rights and economic equity.

In our small way, at Policy Matters, we're trying to honor Dr. King's legacy by insisting on policies that recognize the dignity of all people. We hope he'd approve of the fights we've taken on this year:

- President Trump has drastically cut taxes to benefit the wealthiest few. He has now proposed a budget that slashes funding for programs that build opportunity for all Americans. We're shining a light on how cuts to Medicaid, food aid, college assistance, public

education and more will harm Ohioans across congressional districts.

- GOP lawmakers here in Ohio are pushing so-called “right to work” laws that would weaken labor unions — the single most effective tool in protecting workers’ rights, ensuring decent wages and shrinking workplace barriers for people of color and women. (Dr. King recognized the power in a union: when he was assassinated, he was in Memphis to support a union of black sanitation workers on strike to protest dangerous working conditions.)
- We’ve outlined 10 policies that will help Ohio’s working people get ahead, like overtime protection, raising the minimum wage and paid family leave.
- With the Trump administration’s blessing, state policymakers are looking to cut Medicaid by erecting new barriers that make it harder for low-income Ohioans to access health care. We’re working with partners to beat back these attacks.

Dr. King saw clearly that the American economy is upside down, with the powerful few hoarding resources at the top. In his Riverside Church speech, King predicted a “true revolution of values will soon look uneasily on the glaring contrast of poverty and wealth.” In the half-century since, that contrast has grown even more glaring, the revolution of values even more urgent. We should all do our best to rise to the occasion.

POLICY MATTERS OHIO

Cleveland Office

3631 Perkins Avenue - Suite 4C-East

Cleveland, OH 44114

Phone: (216) 361-9801

Fax: (216) 361-9817

Columbus Office

125 East Broad Street - Fourth Floor

Columbus, OH 43215

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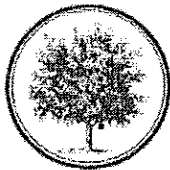
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Ohio Should Avoid Following ~~X~~ichigan's Bad Energy Policy

By Quinn Beeson
April 5, 2018

Several states, including our neighbor **Michigan**, have recently proposed increasing their respective renewable energy mandates, which will end up costing consumers more money on their electric bills and slow renewable energy innovation in their states.

In Ohio we have a chance to avoid these problems, help consumers save money on their energy bills, and encourage investors who have innovative ideas for renewable energy. As Ohio continues to debate its Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS), legislators should focus on the best way to achieve these goals, which begins with repealing the RPS. This will encourage renewable energy innovation, create more job opportunities, and lower electricity bills across Ohio.

Unfortunately, these goals have gotten lost in the RPS debate, and so has the cost of burdensome regulations and mandates. Higher electricity bills are not the only costs Ohioans will be forced to bear as a result of these mandates. As our report *The Impact*

of Renewable Portfolio Standards on the Ohio Economy shows, even if the RPS mandate was repealed immediately, Ohio has already experienced a decrease in new job opportunities and economic growth. Increasing the mandate would only worsen the damage.

Fortunately, there is a solution for consumers, Ohio's economic growth, and for the renewable energy industry. Eliminating burdensome regulations and forced government mandates would unleash innovation in the energy sector, including renewables. This innovation would enable the renewable energy market to grow and flourish, which would lead to lower prices for consumers. These changes would also attract energy producers to Ohio, which would bring much needed jobs to the state.

With RPS mandates in place, however, renewable energy investors have little-to-no incentive to innovate. Rather, their focus is on lobbying policymakers to implement more government mandates to increase their profits. Without RPS mandates, investors would focus on creating better products and services, thus improving the renewable energy industry in Ohio and ultimately decreasing electricity prices.

Ohio should open its doors to clean energy by repealing energy mandates, getting rid of overly burdensome regulations, and eliminating taxpayer subsidies to any energy company -- whether it's clean energy or fossil fuel. Rather than increasing the RPS mandate, like our neighbors up north, Ohio policymakers should repeal the mandate and allow all energy providers to compete fairly for consumers.

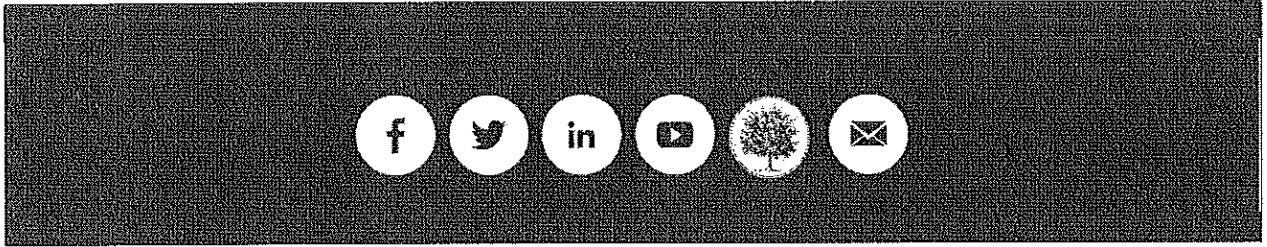
Quinn Beeson is the economic research analyst at The Buckeye Institute's Economic Research Center.

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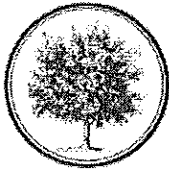
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April 10, 2018

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The Buckeye Institute Identifies \$1.8 Billion in Tax Loopholes that Should be Closed

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute today released a list of **\$1.8 billion in tax loopholes** that should be reviewed by the Ohio's Tax Expenditure Review Committee and considered for elimination to simplify Ohio's tax code and reduce Ohio's tax rate. Eliminating these loopholes without reducing the tax rate would be a tax increase on the citizens of Ohio.

"Ohio has made progress in recent years to improve the state's tax system. Yet, more can be done to build on that success and to further strengthen Ohio's job creation climate," said Greg R. Lawson. "That is why the work of the Tax Expenditure Review Committee is so important. By closing the loopholes we have identified, policymakers will be able use those savings to lower tax rates to keep Ohio's economy growing."

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The Buckeye Institute recommended closing **20 loopholes** that total \$1.8 billion in savings which should be used to reduce Ohio's tax rate, including:

- The notorious NetJets loophole for those who buy shares of corporate jets;
- The **motion picture tax credit**, which has been **eliminated** in other states;
- Credits for political campaign contributions; and
- The job retention and creation tax credits that favor one business over another.

Tax expenditures, or loopholes, no matter how well intentioned, add complexity to Ohio's tax code and favor specific groups over others. As outlined in Buckeye's ***Tax Reform Principles for Ohio***, a simpler, flatter tax code that allows all businesses to compete on an equal playing field should be the goal of Ohio policymakers.

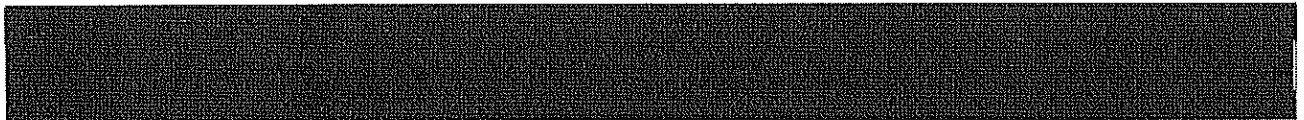
The Buckeye Institute **first called for the creation of the review committee** in 2011, when, along with the Center for Community Solutions and the Greater Ohio Policy Center, it identified **20 loopholes** that should have been closed.

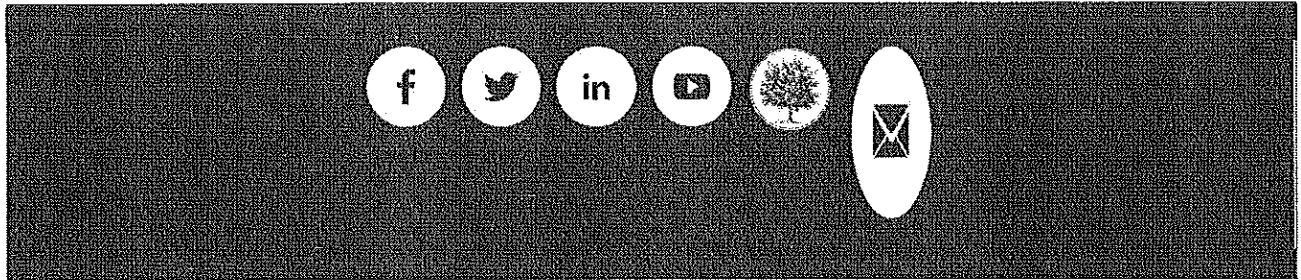
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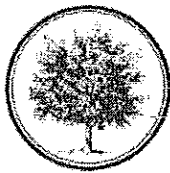
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The Buckeye Institute: Emergency Workers Who Help Ohio in Times of Disaster Should be Thanked Not Burdened with Red Tape

Greg Lawson Testifies Before Ohio Senate Ways and Means Committee on House Bill 133

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute's Greg R. Lawson testified today (see full text below or **download a PDF**) before the Ohio Senate Ways and Means Committee on House Bill 133.

In his testimony, Lawson outlined the onerous nature of Ohio's "byzantine local tax policies and its arcane occupational licensing regime" and questioned why Ohio would extend "its failed policies to men and women from other states who have come to help restore our power, our water, and rebuild our infrastructure in the days after a disaster."

Noting that there is consensus across the political spectrum that occupational licensing "hurt[s] workers and make[s] it more difficult for people to work in their chosen professions," Lawson pointed out that "our state's outmoded tax and licensing policies are even more absurd and risk even harsher consequences when imposed upon out-of-state rescue and emergency personnel coming to lend Ohio a helping hand."

Lawson closed calling the exemptions "necessary and proper," saying, "Once policymakers recognize the necessity and propriety of exempting non-Ohioans from these nettlesome policies, The Buckeye Institute hopes that Ohioans will soon get some much-needed relief from this broken system, too."

###

**Interested Party Testimony Submitted on House Bill 133
Before the Ohio Senate Ways and Means Committee**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute
April 11, 2018**

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Thank you, Chairman Eklund, Vice Chair Terhar, Ranking Member Williams, and members of the Committee for the opportunity to testify today regarding House Bill 133 and the tax and regulatory exemptions for out-of-state emergency-response personnel.

My name is Greg R. Lawson. I am the research fellow at **The Buckeye Institute**, an independent research and educational institution -- a think tank -- whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

House Bill 133 exempts out-of-state workers from most of Ohio's state and local taxes if they are here responding to a Governor-declared state of emergency. The bill also rightly exempts such workers from state and local occupational licensing requirements. Given Ohio's byzantine local tax policies and its arcane occupational licensing regime, these exemptions are necessary and proper.

According to the Tax Foundation, a leading non-partisan tax research organization, Ohio has the unfortunate distinction of owning the worst municipal income tax system in the country.[1] Ohio also boasts some of the nation's most stringent occupational licensing requirements -- requirements that The Heritage Foundation[2], the Brookings Institute[3], and even the Obama[4] and Trump administrations[5] have all agreed hurt workers and

make it more difficult for people to work in their chosen professions. Our state's outmoded tax and licensing policies are even more absurd and risk even harsher consequences when imposed upon out-of-state rescue and emergency personnel coming to lend Ohio a helping hand.

The Buckeye Institute's *Ohio Illustrated: A Visual Guide to Taxes and the Economy*,^[6] co-authored by the Tax Foundation, highlights the complexity and burdens of Ohio's local tax system currently imposed on out-of-state emergency responders who are here only to help. Not content to impose its onerous tax and licensing schemes on its own citizens, Ohio extends its failed policies to men and women from other states who have come to help restore our power, our water, and rebuild our infrastructure in the days after a disaster. A simple "thank you" would likely be more appreciated.

As The Buckeye Institute's **Economic Research Center** has explained repeatedly,^[7] Ohio's occupational licensing requirements -- essentially government permission slips to go to work in the morning -- do not work for Ohioans, so one can only wonder why such requirements would ever work for *non*-Ohioans trying to relieve our communities hit hardest by some natural disaster. The fact is, of course, they won't.

House Bill 133's exemptions are both necessary and proper. Necessary: because when Ohio takes a devastating blow and must rebuild communities after floods, tornados, or winter storms, the last thing those communities should have to endure is bureaucratic red-tape preventing would-be responders from turning on the electricity or restoring potable drinking water while they wait for their licenses to clear. And proper: because sending a petty, unexpected tax bill to those who left the safety and comfort of their own home-states to help rescue ours is no way to show gratitude.

Once policymakers recognize the necessity and propriety of exempting non-Ohioans from these nettlesome policies, The Buckeye Institute hopes that Ohioans will soon get some much-needed relief from this broken system, too.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to responding to any questions that you might have.

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[1] Scott Drenkard and Greg R. Lawson, *In State Tax Battle, the Tar Heels Soar Above the Buckeyes*, Forbes, September 23, 2013.

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[2] Salim Furth, *Costly Mistakes: How Bad Policies Raise the Cost of Living*, The Heritage Foundation, November 23, 2015.

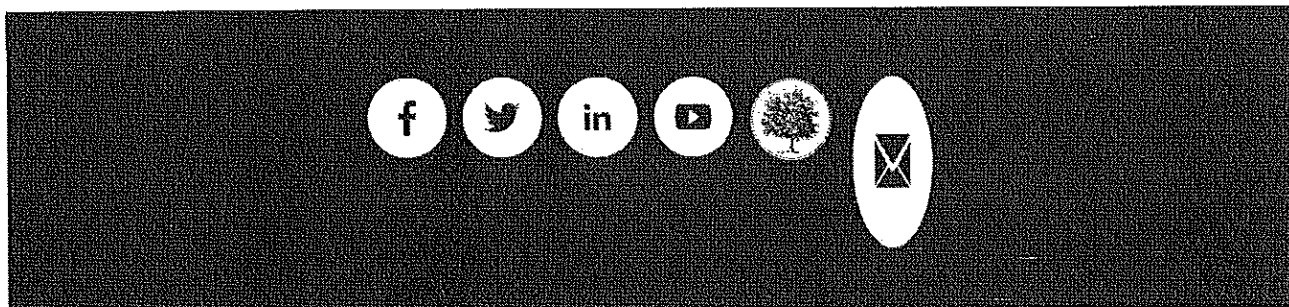
- [3] Morris M. Kleiner, *Reforming Occupational Licensing Policies*, The Hamilton Project, March 2015.
[4] The White House, *Occupational Licensing: A Framework for Policymakers*, July 2015.
[5] Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta, Speech before the 44th Annual Meeting of the American Legislative Exchange Council, U.S. Department of Labor, July 21, 2017.
[6] *Ohio Illustrated: A Visual Guide to Taxes and the Economy*, The Buckeye Institute and The Tax Foundation, June 7, 2017.
[7] Orphe Pierre Divounguys, PhD, Bryce Hill, and Greg R. Lawson, *Still Forbidden to Succeed: The Negative Effects of Occupational Licensing on Ohio's Workforce*, The Buckeye Institute, December 18, 2017; and Tom Lampman, *Forbidden to Succeed: How Licensure Laws Hold Ohioans Back*, The Buckeye Institute, November 18, 2015.

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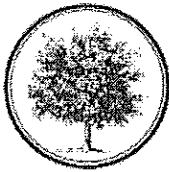
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Before the Ohio Senate Ways and Means Committee**

**Greg R. Lawson, Research Fellow
The Buckeye Institute
April 11, 2018**

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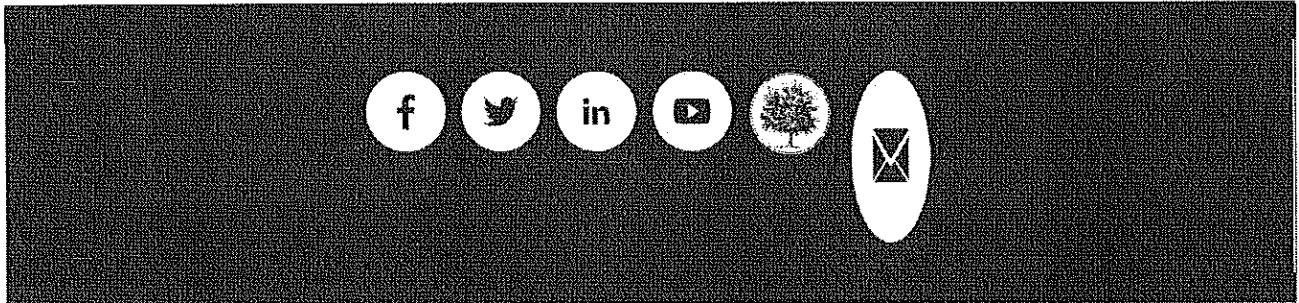
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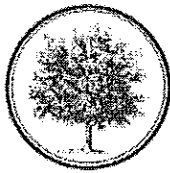
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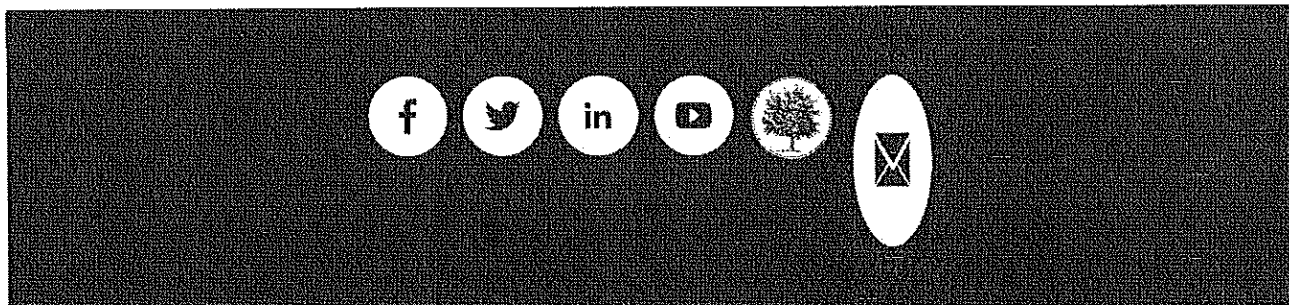
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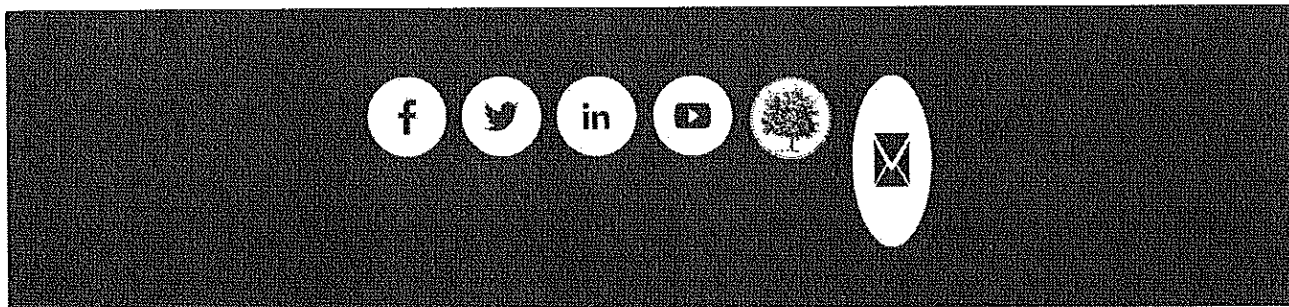
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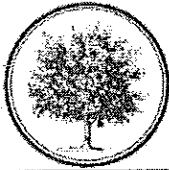
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Burdensome Occupational Licensing Requirements is Causing a Real Problem for Women

By Lisa A. Gates
April 12, 2018

Proponents of occupational licensing often claim that the reason we need licensing is to protect citizens -- both their health and safety. And protecting people is of paramount importance. But what if public health and safety aren't at risk? Or what if licensing requirements in one profession are completely out of line with a profession where workers are entrusted with peoples' actual lives?

That is what is happening with the debate over cosmetology licensing. As was recently pointed out in *The Columbus Dispatch*, "In Ohio, you can be an emergency medical technician after completing 800 hours of training, a police officer after 695 hours and a licensed practical nurse after 1,376 hours. And to sit for a licensing exam to cut hair? Would you believe 1,500 hours of training?"

Given these facts, it is apparent that public safety is hardly a legitimate concern when it comes to licensing cosmetologists.

There is a proposal to lower the number of training hours for a cosmetology license to 1,000 - the same as required in New York City. Opponents claim that this would hurt women and question if supporters of the change "have a women problem." This would be laughable, if the proposed change was not so important to women who want to enter the cosmetology profession to earn a better living for themselves and their families. The real problem for women is the skyrocketing costs and unnecessary time it takes to get a cosmetology license.

By lowering the hours required for a cosmetology license to the same as it is in New York City, Ohio would help women save money on school costs so they can begin their careers. As Dawn Hochwalt, a salon manager from Dayton, Ohio, said, "When I was in school it cost around \$6,000 to go to school and get a license, now that cost is \$20,000 or more. That debt is putting a tremendous burden on young people and the 1,500 hours they need to earn their license means they are not able to get on the salon floor to earn a living and pay off their debt."

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And cosmetology jobs are growing. According to the **Bureau of Labor Statistics**, job opportunities for cosmetologists will grow by 13 percent by 2026. However, with the barriers Ohio is putting in the way, these jobs will go unfilled and this growth in jobs will disappear.

If policymakers want to help women, be family-friendly, and help jobs and businesses grow they must remove barriers for people, particularly women, to pursue the careers of their choice.

Lisa A. Gates is the vice president of communications at The Buckeye Institute.

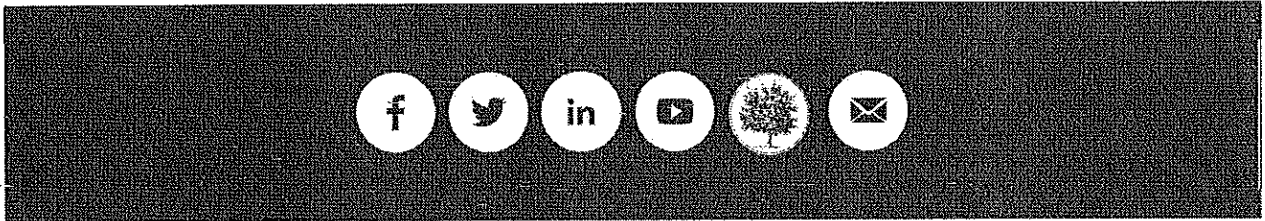
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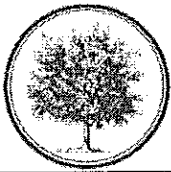
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THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

In *The Columbus Dispatch*, Buckeye's Quinn Beeson highlights the importance of occupational licensing reform to women who want to join the cosmetology profession, saying, "In Ohio, an EMT who makes life and death decisions receives less training than a cosmetologist in whose hands you place your hair. This is ridiculous and illustrates why Ohio needs to expand opportunities for women and minorities and remove barriers to employment."

The Columbus Dispatch

Bills would benefit women, minorities

The Columbus Dispatch

Letters to the Editor

April 13, 2018

Charles Penzone was absolutely right in his April 8 op-ed "Bills would get cosmetologists into workforce."

In Ohio, an EMT who makes life and death decisions receives less training than a cosmetologist in whose hands you place your hair. This is ridiculous and illustrates why Ohio needs to expand opportunities for women and minorities and remove barriers to employment.

Becoming a cosmetologist gives women and minorities - who compose the overwhelming majority of those in the industry - control over their own lives. That is why opposition to removing barriers for these people is so misguided.

It is shocking that opponents of reform, mostly for-profit schools, want to stop young people from getting hired more quickly while heaping mounds of debt on their shoulders and crushing their opportunities.

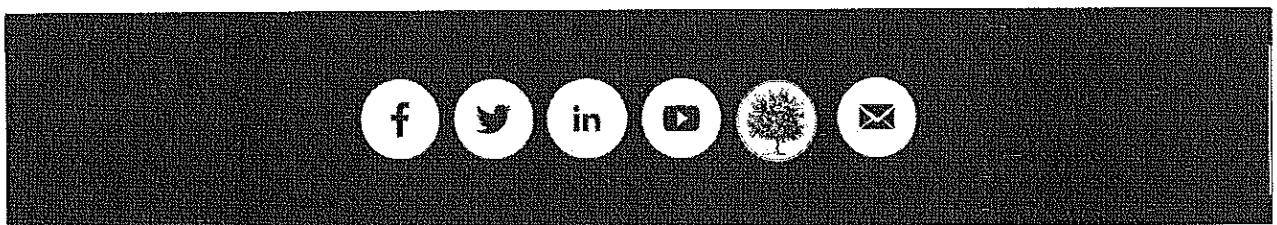
Policies harming the career opportunities for women and minorities in Ohio need to end. Helping cosmetologists is a good place to start. But it is only a start. There is much more to be done to expand the opportunities for success in Ohio and remove barriers to employment.

Quinn R. Beeson
The Buckeye Institute
Columbus

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[mailto:Theresa.Hatton@governor.ohio.gov]
Sent: Friday, April 13, 2018 1:41 PM
To: 'rally@hpio.net' <rally@hpio.net>; 'jaysmith@ohioschoolboards.org' <jaysmith@ohioschoolboards.org>; 'mcropper@oft-aft.org' <mcropper@oft-aft.org>; 'djohnson@oft-aft.org' <djohnson@oft-aft.org>; LESLEY.SCOTT-CHARLTON@medicaid.ohio.gov; Peggy Lehner (DST) <SD06@ohiosenate.gov>; 'csolley@akronchildrens.org' <csolley@akronchildrens.org>; 'mwilmoth@akronchildrens.org' <mwilmoth@akronchildrens.org>; 'kgrayem@akronchildrens.org' <kgrayem@akronchildrens.org>; 'sarah.knepp@ohiosenate.gov' <sarah.knepp@ohiosenate.gov>; 'hamilton@basa-ohio.org' <hamilton@basa-ohio.org>; 'aly.deangelo@ohiohospitals.org' <aly.deangelo@ohiohospitals.org>; 'rally@hpio.net' <rally@hpio.net>; 'kathleen@raiseyourvoiceforkids.org' <kathleen@raiseyourvoiceforkids.org>; Jennifer.Davis@odh.ohio.gov; 'aweaver@oahp.org' <aweaver@oahp.org>; 'nathan@oda.org' <nathan@oda.org>; 'drgossard@ecpnetwork.com' <drgossard@ecpnetwork.com>; 'enimak@aol.com' <enimak@aol.com>; 'skincaid@ohiochildrenshospitals.org' <skincaid@ohiochildrenshospitals.org>; 'mpweisel@voryshcadvisors.com' <mpweisel@voryshcadvisors.com>; 'harriam@cpsboe.k12.oh.us' <harriam@cpsboe.k12.oh.us>; 'mcropper@oft-aft.org' <mcropper@oft-aft.org>; 'kmahler@ohioafp.org' <kmahler@ohioafp.org>; 'joan.hlinomaz@ketteringschools.org' <joan.hlinomaz@ketteringschools.org>; 'MARYKAY.IRWIN@NATIONWIDECHILDRENS.ORG' <MARYKAY.IRWIN@NATIONWIDECHILDRENS.ORG>; Reina.Sims@mih.ohio.gov; 'reiss@carpenterlipps.com' <reiss@carpenterlipps.com>; 'president@OASN.org' <president@OASN.org>; 'fwolgin@interactforhealth.org' <fwolgin@interactforhealth.org>; Paolo.Demaria@education.ohio.gov; John.Martin@dodd.ohio.gov; Lance.Himes@odh.ohio.gov; Cynthia.Duney@jfs.ohio.gov; Barbara.Sears@medicaid.ohio.gov; tracy.plouck@mha.ohio.gov; greg.moody@governor.ohio.gov; 'rgraham@lcghd.org' <rgraham@lcghd.org>; 'hamilton@basa-ohio.org' <hamilton@basa-ohio.org>; 'Daniel.Troy@lakecountyohio.gov' <Daniel.Troy@lakecountyohio.gov>;

'darlene.kamine@clcinate.org' <darlene.kamine@clcinate.org>;
'jdirossi@ohiohc.org' <jdirossi@ohiohc.org>; 'mmotter@oahp.org'
<mmotter@oahp.org>; 'president@oasn.org' <president@oasn.org>;
'rnich99@yahoo.com' <rnich99@yahoo.com>; 'klake@ohiochamber.com'
<klake@ohiochamber.com>; 'murrayMD@live.com' <murrayMD@live.com>;
'skincaid@ohiochildrenshospitals.org' <skincaid@ohiochildrenshospitals.org>;
Reina.Sims@mih.ohio.gov; 'Keith.Hochadel@CommQuest.org'
<Keith.Hochadel@CommQuest.org>; 'david@oda.org' <david@oda.org>;
'kkerns@ooa.org' <kkerns@ooa.org>; 'barbvarley@gmail.com'
<barbvarley@gmail.com>; 'rfields@osma.org' <rfields@osma.org>;
'Angela@pcsao.org' <Angela@pcsao.org>; 'brandi@raiseyourvoiceforkids.org'
<brandi@raiseyourvoiceforkids.org>; 'mcropper@oft-aft.org' <mcropper@oft-aft.org>;
ehenrich@oacbha.org; 'ajbrenn10@aol.com' <ajbrenn10@aol.com>; Peggy
Lehner (DST) <SD06@ohiosenate.gov>; Peggy Lehner (DST)
<SD06@ohiosenate.gov>; Rep93 <Rep93@ohiohouse.gov>;
'Aly.DeAngelo@ohiohospitals.org' <Aly.DeAngelo@ohiohospitals.org>;
'ASpicer@ohioafp.org' <ASpicer@ohioafp.org>; 'jwills@ooanet.org'
<jwills@ooanet.org>; 'rlewis@ohioschoolboards.org'
<rlewis@ohioschoolboards.org>; 'jim@oasbo-ohio.org' <jim@oasbo-ohio.org>;
'burford@oesca.org' <burford@oesca.org>; 'rally@healthpolicyohio.org'
<rally@healthpolicyohio.org>; 'Jessie.Cannon@nationwidechildrens.org'
<Jessie.Cannon@nationwidechildrens.org>; 'enimak@aol.com' <enimak@aol.com>;
'bcarroll@hpio.net' <bcarroll@hpio.net>; 'rally@hpio.net' <rally@hpio.net>;
'MaryKay.Irwin@nationwidechildrens.org'
<MaryKay.Irwin@nationwidechildrens.org>; 'tcoder@oacbha.org'
<tcoder@oacbha.org>; 'jdirossi@ohiohc.org' <jdirossi@ohiohc.org>;
'aweaver@oahp.org' <aweaver@oahp.org>; 'skincaid@ohiochildrenshospitals.org'
<skincaid@ohiochildrenshospitals.org>; mark.smith@education.ohio.gov;
'joan.hlinomaz@ketteringschools.org' <joan.hlinomaz@ketteringschools.org>;
'aspicer@ohioafp.org' <aspicer@ohioafp.org>; 'kmahler@ohioafp.org'
<kmahler@ohioafp.org>; 'murrayMD@live.com' <murrayMD@live.com>;
'rdickman@ohioaap.org' <rdickman@ohioaap.org>; Reina.Sims@mih.ohio.gov;
'nathan@oda.org' <nathan@oda.org>; Lance.Himes@odh.ohio.gov;
LESLEY.SCOTT-CHARLTON@medicaid.ohio.gov; 'burford@oesca.org'
<burford@oesca.org>; 'aly.deangelo@ohiohospitals.org'
<aly.deangelo@ohiohospitals.org>; 'jwills@ooanet.org' <jwills@ooanet.org>;
'jaysmith@ohioschoolboards.org' <jaysmith@ohioschoolboards.org>;
'ajbrenn10@aol.com' <ajbrenn10@aol.com>; 'Rfields@osma.org'
<Rfields@osma.org>; 'mpweisel@voryshcadvisors.com'
<mpweisel@voryshcadvisors.com>; Kate Rossman
<Kate.Rossman@ohiosenate.gov>; 'drgossard@ecpnetwork.com'
<drgossard@ecpnetwork.com>; 'Brandi@raiseyourvoiceforkids.org'

<Brandi@raiseyourvoiceforkids.org>; 'kathleen@raiseyourvoiceforkids.org'
<kathleen@raiseyourvoiceforkids.org>
Cc: Monica.Juenger@governor.ohio.gov; Sarah.Wickham@education.ohio.gov;
Marjorie.Yano@medicaid.ohio.gov; 'matt_karlan@mckinsey.com'
<matt_karlan@mckinsey.com>
Subject: SURVEY and WEBSITE Link: School Based Health Care Work Group

Thank you for joining the School Based Health Care work group call Wednesday.

As promised, we are sharing a link for the Ohio School Based Health Care partnership toolkit for your further review (<http://education.ohio.gov/SBHealthcareToolkit>). This website is still in **DRAFT** form, so we respectfully request that you not share the link with others. The temporary link will be taken down on Friday, April 27.

Please submit additional toolkit feedback via this survey link
(<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6YB5WX6>) by Friday, April 27.

Finally, the school self-assessment link
(<https://ccip.ode.state.oh.us/DocumentLibrary/ViewDocument.aspx?DocumentKey=80971>)
was sent out to ~1300 schools and their respective superintendents through the school improvement plan portal last month. If you are aware of schools that still would like to provide information through the self-assessment, please have them do so ASAP. The link will be taken down within the next few days.

Thanks for your continued interest in this work.

Theresa Hatton
Office of Health Transformation
theresa.hatton@governor.ohio.gov
614-752-2784

From: Hatton, Theresa
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 1:44 PM
Subject: RE: School Based Health Care Work Group Conference Call Tomorrow

Today's discussion will be a walkthrough of the toolkit website and the SBHC vision section. If you are unable to join via the WebEx, I have attached the vision document to follow along. Please let me know if you have questions.

School Based Health Care Call
Wednesday April 11, 2018

2:00pm – 3:00pm

Webex:

<https://mckinsey.webex.com/mckinsey/j.php?MTID=m51e86c4058005e7ecd0412693641fb5f>

Meeting number:

Meeting password:

Dial in:

From: Hatton, Theresa

Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 4:16 PM

Subject: School Based Health Care Work Group Conference Call Tomorrow

As a reminder, we are hosting a school based health care conference call tomorrow at 2:00pm. Details are listed below. We will be discussing the website for the partnership support toolkit and going through the Vision for Ohio School-Based Health Care section.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.

School Based Health Care Call

Wednesday April 11, 2018

2:00pm – 3:00pm

Webex:

<https://mckinsey.webex.com/mckinsey/j.php?MTID=m51e86c4058005e7ecd0412693641fb5f>

Meeting number:

Meeting password:

Dial in:

Theresa Hatton

Office of Health Transformation

theresa.hatton@governor.ohio.gov

614-752-2784

From: Hatton, Theresa

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 3:35 PM

Subject: School Based Health Care Work Group Follow-Up

Thank you for participating in the school-based health care workgroup last Wednesday. We wanted to follow up with a few logistics:

1. **Share any materials that would be helpful to add to the toolkit.** Many of you mentioned that you have ready-made materials or links to materials that would be

helpful to add to the toolkit. We would appreciate if you could send those materials or any general input on the toolkit to sarah.wickham@education.ohio.gov.

2. **Two follow up conference calls.** Scheduled for April 11 at 2:00PM and May 1 at 10:00AM. More details will be sent in advance of these calls.
3. **Save the date for the next in-person meeting on May 22 at noon.** Meeting details and RSVP link below.

Key takeaways from breakouts on care delivery models and toolkit

- Need to make sure we are clear on what audience we are addressing (e.g., what are the relevant decisions for schools, health care providers and the partnership together; what are the resources required to help each succeed)
- Important to frame the models carefully so that schools and health care providers understand the inputs to making decisions:
 - Many of these choices will be dictated based on a deeper understanding of academic and health outcomes as part of a broader needs assessment
 - Depends in large part on access to funding and existing services (e.g. who are external and internal providers that will be able to support their efforts)
 - Social determinants and urban/rural factors will play strongly in model selection
- Necessary to engage the community early and often – not just about “marketing” the program but getting buy-in and ensuring the model meets community needs
- Creation of a peer-to-peer network – or database of other early adopters – would be a powerful resource for schools starting school-based health care efforts
- The toolkit should help partnerships think through structuring accountability and governance (e.g., provide tools to support monitoring sustainability, considerations for safety / security, etc)

School Based Health Care Workgroup

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

12:00pm – 2:00pm

Lazarus Office Building, 6th Floor

50 W. Town Street

Columbus, OH 43215

RSVP: <https://goo.gl/forms/RXS0ndGCdbUNfiVm2>

****Allow additional time to check in with Dept. of Medicaid security upon arrival.*

Theresa Hatton

Office of Health Transformation

theresa.hatton@governor.ohio.gov

614-752-2784

... (2003) ...

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2018 2:55 PM
To: Snider, Grace
Subject: The Buckeye Institute Praises Effort to Continue Rolling Back Red Tape



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms
(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 18, 2018

The Buckeye Institute Praises Effort to Continue Rolling Back Red Tape

Columbus, OH -- The Buckeye Institute issued the following statement on legislative proposals designed to reduce regulatory burdens on Ohioans.

"Senate President Larry Obhof and the leadership of both chambers should be commended for continuing to go after red tape that strangles Ohio businesses and makes it difficult for people to begin working in the career of their choice.

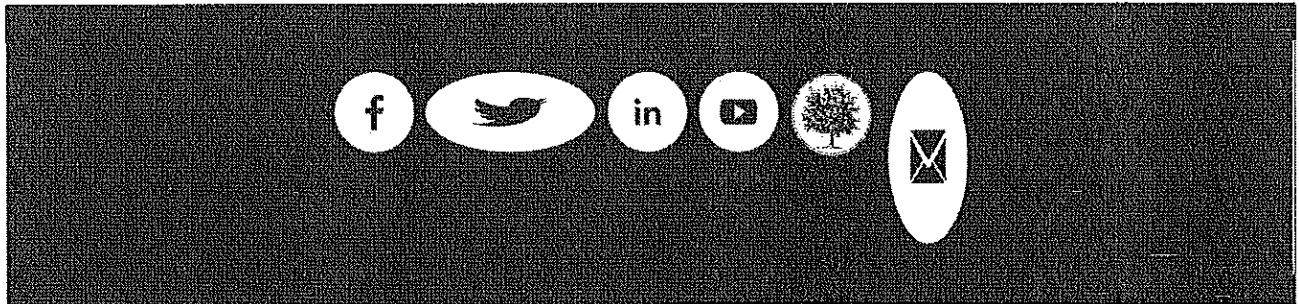
"The Buckeye Institute has long called for **eliminating duplicative and unnecessary regulations** that do little-to-nothing to protect public health and safety and prevent Ohioans from creating jobs and **beginning new careers**. The proposals being considered by Senators Peterson, McColley, and Wilson and Representative Roegner are a step in the right direction.

"By tracking and reducing onerous regulations that do not affect public safety, Ohio can create a stronger economy much like the results seen in **British Columbia, Canada and New Zealand**."

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



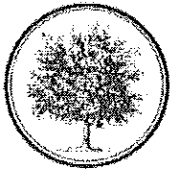
The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2018 11:01 AM
To: Snider, Grace
Subject: The Buckeye Institute: Ohio's Job Market Shows Positive Signs, Further Reforms Needed to Make Ohio a National Leader



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Contact: Lisa Gates, Vice President of Comms

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 20, 2018

(614) 224-3255 or Lisa@BuckeyeInstitute.org

The Buckeye Institute: Ohio's Job Market Shows Positive Signs, Further Reforms Needed to Make Ohio a National Leader

Columbus, OH -- Andrew J. Kidd, Ph.D., the senior economist with the Economic Research Center at **The Buckeye Institute** commented on newly released unemployment data from the **Ohio Department of Job and Family Services**. (Click [here](#) to download the audio file.)

"Ohio's unemployment rate fell slightly to 4.4 percent, down from 4.5 percent in February. This continued trend, combined with a similar labor force participation rate, is a positive indicator that Ohio's job market is allowing individuals who desire jobs to get jobs. However, Ohio has yet to reach the national unemployment rate of 4.1 percent. This, as well as a labor force participation rate lower than the national average shows that Ohio still has work to do. The right reforms, such as **closing tax loopholes** and **removing unnecessary barriers to employment** through occupational licensing, would create opportunities for sustained job growth.

"Ohio continued to experience positive job growth with 8,600 new jobs in non-farm private employment. Coupled with January and February's job growth, more than 37,000 Ohioans have found jobs this year alone, which shows that Ohio's job market is still expanding. The growth in construction and manufacturing jobs (1,200 jobs and 1,500 respectively), is a

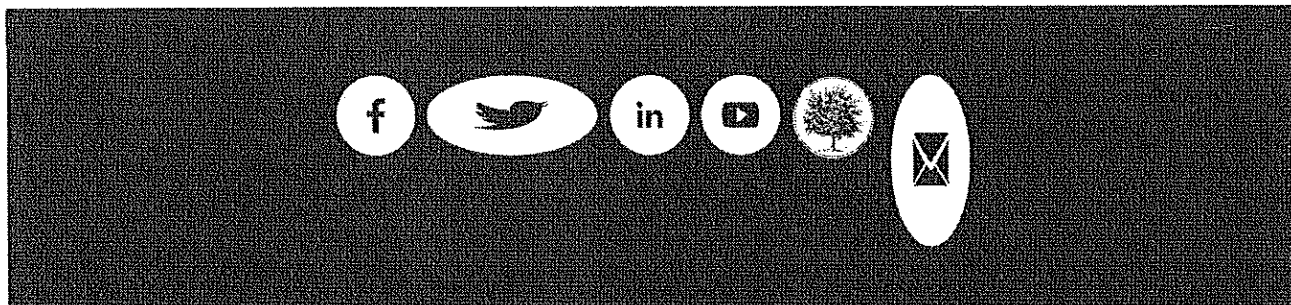
positive sign for economy-wide growth, and with the potential implications of tariffs will be important to watch in the coming months.

"Ohio in 2018 has experienced positive job growth. Yet, another month of an unchanged labor force participation rate once again implies that some individuals are still not searching for jobs. Reforms to occupational licensing, and an end to preferential tax credits to only certain industries would further expand Ohio's job market and help Ohio reach its goal of being a national leader in job creation."

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

The Buckeye Institute is a non-partisan, non-profit, and tax-exempt organization, as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. As such, it relies on support from individuals, corporations, and foundations that share a commitment to individual liberty, free enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government. The Buckeye Institute does not seek or accept government funding.



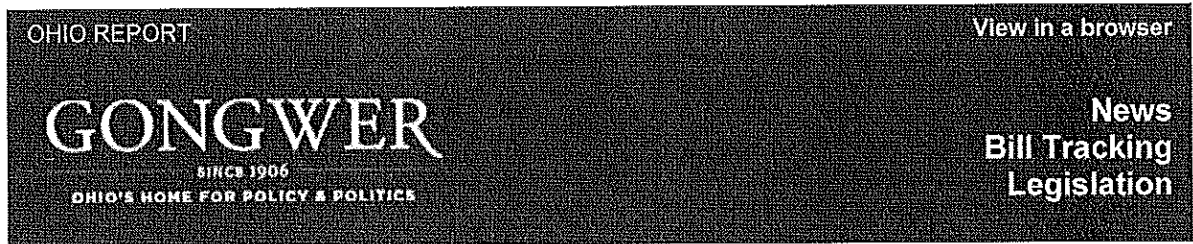
The Buckeye Institute, 88 East Broad Street,
Suite 1120, Columbus, OH 43215

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Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Gongwer News Service
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2018 6:20 PM
To: Snider, Grace
Subject: Ohio Report, Friday, April 20, 2018
Attachments: 180420dayplan.htm; Apr20.htm; 180420plan.htm



OHIO REPORT FRIDAY, APRIL 20

**Energy Standards Bill Timeline Unclear As Another Wind Setback
Proposal Is Introduced**

State Unemployment Drops To Lowest Level In More Than 16 Years

**Senator Backing Medical Marijuana Audit Bill Supports Review By
Commerce Department**

High Court To Hear Traffic Camera Case

Candidates Stress Experience In House District 26 Primary

OPA: Pharmacists Can Serve As Educators In Opioid Struggle

**Medical Pot Program Halt Rejected; Complaint Against DeWine
Dismissed; No New Trial For Beck; Buckeye Institute Weighs In On
Case...**

Issue 1 Backers Tout Endorsements; Cordray Takes Credit For Wells Fargo Fine; Yuko Calls For Action On Guns...

Sheehy Calls For Further Action On Ag Runoff; OEC Proposes Toxic Chemical Protections

Ohio Lands \$26 Million In Federal Opioid Funding; Senators Applaud Disaster Request Approval...

Chamber Of Commerce Endorses Issue 1; P&G, Key, More Report Financial Results; Toledo Businesswoman Added To SBAC

Governor's Appointments

Supplemental Agency Calendar

CALENDARS

Day Planner

Event Planner

Please send all correspondence to gongwer@gongwer-oh.com. This mailbox is not regularly monitored.

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Daily Activity Planner for Saturday, April 21- Monday, April 23

Legislative Committees

No legislative committees scheduled.

Agency Calendar

Monday, April 23

Controlling Board, North Hearing Rm., Senate Bldg., Columbus, 1:30 p.m.
Human Trafficking Commission, 18th Fl., 150 E. Gay St., Columbus, 2 p.m.

Event Planner

Saturday, April 21

YMCA Youth & Government High School State Assembly 2, Statehouse,
Columbus

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Tom Gallick, Staff Writers

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Volume #87, Report #77 -- Friday, April 20, 2018

Energy Standards Bill Timeline Unclear As Another Wind Setback Proposal Is Introduced

Senate President Larry Obhof this week referred to ongoing talks over the state's energy standards and wind turbine setback revisions as "a long-term project."

The remark lends further uncertainty to the timeline in which Senate Republicans hope to roll out a substitute bill on a measure (HB 114) that in its current form waters down the state's renewable and energy efficiency benchmarks.

Earlier this month, Sen. Obhof had predicted a sub bill could be ready "in the next few weeks." (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 6, 2018)

But asked this week about the Senate's priorities in the coming weeks, Sen. Obhof (R-Medina) said: "We've talked a number of times about energy, and particularly 114 probably now is a long-term project."

Sen. Obhof had previously labeled the measure a priority for the first part of the year but the timeline has been pushed back at every juncture as lawmakers grappled with a congressional redistricting ballot issue (SJR 5), the capital budget (HB 529) and other pressing proposals.

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) and Sen. Troy Balderson (R-Zanesville) are spearheading talks on that sub bill but have said the timeline and the extent of the changes to the legislation remain unclear. The caucus has yet to reach a consensus on the plan the senators presented behind closed doors last month. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, March 23, 2018)

Changes to loosen the state's setbacks for wind turbines are expected to be a component of the sub bill and advocates have continued pressing lawmakers in recent weeks to walk back restrictions put in place in a 2014. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 12, 2018)

Rep. Fred Strahorn (D-Dayton) on Tuesday introduced his own standalone measure to reduce setbacks (HB 604). His plan joins several other legislative efforts to accomplish that feat, including proposals from Sen. Matt Dolan (SB 238) and Sen. Michael Skindell (SB 184).

The minority leader's proposal would require turbines to be no closer than 1,125 feet from the tip of a turbine to the exterior of the nearest habitable residential structure. Current law, in contrast, measures the distance from the structure's property line.

The measure would also make permanent tax exemptions for tangible personal property of a qualified energy project using renewable energy resources under certain conditions.

Trish Demeter, the Ohio Environmental Council's vice president of energy policy, welcomed the latest attempt.

"I applaud Leader Fred Strahorn for proposing HB604 - a bill which if passed, would pave the way for full scale wind development in Ohio," Ms. Demeter said.

"For too long, Ohioans have missed out on trends towards wind energy due to unnecessarily large setbacks from property lines. Fixing the wind setback issue is critical for further development of wind energy across the state, and bringing Ohio up to speed in the growing clean energy economy."

State Unemployment Drops To Lowest Level In More Than 16 Years

Ohio's unemployment rate dropped a notch to 4.4% in March, maintaining a positive trend of recent months and reflecting the best report since August 2001, according to the Department of Job and Family Services.

The March rate was a drop from 4.5% in February 2018, the agency reported. Total employment increased 10,800 over the month to 5,579,200, and the number of unemployed was down 9,000 to 253,000.

The unemployment total has dropped by 40,000 since March 2017, when the rate was 5.1%, and the state has seen an increased of 54,400 jobs during that period, according to state data compiled in conjunction with the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"Another strong jobs report out today," Gov. John Kasich stated on his Twitter account. His statement was accompanied by a GIF of actor Chuck Norris giving a thumbs-up.

"Since 2011, Ohioans have created 501,000 new private sector jobs, and unemployment is the best it's been since 2001," Mr. Kasich said. "We've come a long way since 2010. Let's keep it going, Ohio!"

Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) said the number of new private jobs reflected an important milestone for the state. The positive news shows the GOP-run legislature's policies are working, he said.

"We work diligently to not only create an environment of possibilities for Ohio's job creators but also to ensure Ohioans from all backgrounds are prepared to take advantage of those opportunities," Sen. Obhof said in a release.

"We've done this through creating a jobs-friendly business environment, developing a jobs-ready workforce and empowering Ohio's small businesses, the backbone of our economy. While this is an important milestone that shows Ohio's policies are working, we have much more to do, and we will continue to build on this progress."

Despite the recent gains, Ohio still lags the nation, as the U.S. unemployment rate for March was 4.1%. That figure was unchanged from February and down from 4.5% in March 2017.

During a month when most sectors saw job gains, the best performers were the private service-providing sector, which added 5,700 positions, as well as trade, transportation, and utilities (+3,400). ODJFS noted the most significant losses in information (-700) and other services (-500).

Agency spokesman Bret Crow said eight industries or sub-sectors experienced record-high employment levels. They are: transportation, warehousing and utilities; finance and insurance; educational and health services; educational services; health care and social assistance; leisure and hospitality; accommodation and food services; and state government.

The March gains in the construction industry, which was up 1,200 jobs, represented the third consecutive month of steady job growth in the sector, which has gained 5,700 jobs over the last year, Mr. Crow said.

In addition, the state versus federal comparison on job growth favored Ohio, as the state added jobs at a rate that was more than double the national rate, or 0.19% versus 0.07%, he said. And the average weekly earnings for Ohioans is up \$3.14 compared to last month and \$28.45 compared to last year, both outperforming the national rate.

"It's an across-the-board positive report with lower unemployment and new job growth that doubled the nation's," Mr. Crow said.

Andrew J. Kidd, senior economist with the Economic Research Center at The Buckeye Institute, said the latest jobs report shows "Ohio's job market is allowing individuals who desire jobs to get jobs."

"However, Ohio has yet to reach the national unemployment rate of 4.1%, he added. "This, as well as a labor force participation rate lower than the national average, shows that Ohio still has work to do. The right reforms, such as closing tax loopholes and removing unnecessary barriers to employment through occupational licensing, would create opportunities for sustained job growth."

"Ohio in 2018 has experienced positive job growth. Yet, another month of an unchanged labor force participation rate once again implies that some individuals are still not searching for jobs," Mr. Kidd added.

Hannah Halbert, researcher with Policy Matters Ohio, said the state has gained more jobs in the first three months of 2018 than in all of 2017.

"While labor force participation suggests there is still room for improvement, Ohio's labor market is finally tightening," she said. "Even so, many jobs pay too little and offer too-few hours, making it nearly impossible to afford basics like food and health care without

public support. Raising the minimum wage, restoring the 40-hour work week, and supporting paid leave would make the most of this tighter labor market and help rebuild a path to the middle class."

Ms. Halbert said Ohio continues to underperform the nation's 12-month rate for job growth and has "vastly underperformed" the rest of the U.S. since the 2005 tax overhaul was enacted.

"Ohio is not out of the woods. A bad month or two could erase this streak and more months of solid growth are needed to take up the remaining slack in our labor market," she said.

Senator Backing Medical Marijuana Audit Bill Supports Review By Commerce Department

A senator who sponsored legislation to require an audit of the medical marijuana licensing process said he's supportive of efforts by the Department of Commerce to perform its own review.

Sen. Bill Coley (R-Liberty Twp.) introduced a proposal (SB 264) in February to require a state auditor investigation of DOC's awarding of provisional licenses for medical marijuana growers, including a set timeframe for the review and the awarding of certificates of operation.

It was intended to remove any clouds of suspicion or impropriety from the licensing process, the sponsor said. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 22, 2018)

That measure had its first hearing this week in the Senate Health, Human Services & Medicaid Committee. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 17, 2018)

Since February, DOC and other agencies involved in the medical marijuana program have worked to tamp down expectations for the initiative's Sept. 8 go-live date, saying it's unlikely all license recipients will be operational by then. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 5, 2018)

The agency worked with an attorney general-appointed special counsel to hire a third-party auditor to review the scoring and find possible improvements. The department reported Friday that Ernst & Young was retained for the work, which does not have a set deadline for completion but is expected to take "a matter of weeks" to finish.

Sen. Coley complimented the department on that effort and said the goal of his legislation is simply to ensure the state has a fair process.

"You could easily argue that they're already doing those things," he said in an interview. "I want to make sure it gets done and it gets followed through."

He encouraged the department to work with the auditor's office to ensure the process is thoroughly reviewed.

"I support Commerce going through and looking at the whole thing, re-scoring if necessary and awarding additional licenses if warranted," he said. "I think that's all a good thing and it would be for the benefit of all patients and the state of Ohio."

Sen. Coley said he's confident the department will correct any issues.

"I think they realize that some mistakes were made and they want to correct them," he said.

DOC will go before the Controlling Board Monday to request more than \$5 million for staffing, legal costs and other expenses for the medical marijuana program. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 16, 2018)

High Court To Hear Traffic Camera Case

The battle over automated traffic cameras will continue next week with the latest front being the Ohio Supreme Court.

The city of Toledo and the state are at odds over a previous budget (HB64, 131st General Assembly) provision that allows the state to reduce Local Government Fund distributions for non-compliance with traffic camera restrictions (SB342, 130th General Assembly), some of which were struck down by the high court. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 26, 2017)

Ten days prior to the traffic camera restrictions becoming law, the city asked for and received an injunction from the Lucas County Common Pleas Court, the high court reported.

Lawmakers then passed the biennial budget containing the LGF reduction provisions. The city again asked for and received an injunction from the trial court, which found the state would be in contempt if it withheld funding from cities based on non-compliance with a law found to be unconstitutional.

The Sixth District Court of Appeals upheld the ruling, leading to the state appeal to the high court, where it argues the budget provision is a reporting requirement and a formula for discretionary spending. (Docket)

"Toledo has no 'home rule' right to receive money from the General Assembly," the state writes in a brief. "It is not 'losing' money that it has, but rather choosing to give up money in order to run its traffic-camera program as it sees fit."

The state also contends that the city should have been required to file a separate lawsuit in the matter and that the injunction is a violation of separation of powers.

"The Sixth District's holding invades the legislative power and exceeds the judicial power because courts do not have roving license to enjoin legislation," the state argues. "Courts must instead draw the power to block legislation from specific constitutional prohibitions."

The city, however, claims that lawmakers are seeking to coerce compliance with unconstitutional laws.

It also argues that the state is the guilty party when it comes to the violation of separation of powers.

"If the General Assembly could simply ignore the judicial branch any time legislation is struck by withholding funds to those entities that do not comply with the unconstitutional legislative acts, then there is no separation of powers because the legislature would reign supreme," the city writes in its brief.

"This type of legislation is not a 'new' law that merits a separate lawsuit and separate constitutional analysis, but moreover an affront to the authority of the judiciary. The Penalty Provisions try to avoid judicial control by reenacting unconstitutional laws."

The case is slated for oral arguments as another measure (HB 410) authored by the primary sponsor of the 2014 law works its way through the General Assembly.

Rep. Bill Seitz's (R-Cincinnati) legislation would eliminate the use of administrative hearings when a civil citation is issued for a traffic violation recorded by a photo-monitoring device and require local governments that use traffic-monitoring devices to annually file a report with the tax commissioner detailing how much revenue is generated from their use which will then be subtracted from the LGF distribution.

The court will hear three other cases next week:

- In *State v. Dunson*, a Montgomery County man convicted of murder and aggravated robbery will ask the justices to set aside \$6,199 in court costs.
- The court in *East Manufacturing v. Testa* will determine if a Portage County company is eligible for a use tax exemption for the purchase of natural gas it uses to heat six buildings where aluminum truck trailers are constructed.
- A bank will argue that despite federal rules requiring a face-to-face meeting with a borrower after three missed mortgage payments prior to proceeding with a foreclosure it should be allowed to move forward because the meeting occurred during court-ordered mediation after the second attempt to foreclose in the case of *Wells Fargo Bank v. Burd*.

Candidates Stress Experience In House District 26 Primary

A Columbus City School Board member and a law clerk with a background in youth advocacy each say their breadth of experience make them the ideal candidates for the 26th House District.

The Democrat-leaning district is currently represented by Rep. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus), whose bid for the Senate is opening the path for a new face. Michael Cole, 45, and Erica Crawley, 37, are both working to secure the Democratic nomination, after which the victor will likely face Republican Shareeque Sadiq in November.

Mr. Cole said he has a track record of "having gotten things done in the most tough circumstances" thanks to his two terms on the school board.

"It's one thing when the whole deck's lined up for you and you're accomplishing some things of the work and will of people," he said. "It's another to have every kind of almost insurmountable obstacle against you whether it's state, federal, local discontent for something and still move the needle of achievement."

Ms. Crawley, while touting her own experience, credits her desire to enter public office to her great aunt who in 2007, shortly before her death, asked her during a conversation on political leaders, "Why not you?"

"She was never elected, never interested in politics per se, but she gave her time," Ms. Crawley said. "She spent a lot of time with the church, with homeless families. She never met an enemy. People loved my aunt and she loved people. I would hope she would be proud of me if I could be half the woman she was and make the impact she made."

Mr. Cole is originally from Cleveland but first came to Columbus as a student at Ohio State University. "This city kind of had me at hello," he said.

He picked up a master's degree in communication at Seton Hall University and then chose to return to Columbus where he sought out service opportunities including a five-year stint as area commissioner in Westgate.

"The opportunity and potential that this city offers I think is tremendous," Mr. Cole said. "I think it was almost a spiritual calling to end up in this city."

He said he worked on neighborhood safety and beautification issues, before segueing into politics and hosting a public affairs radio show. He was first elected to the school board in 2013 and reelected last year. He's currently vice president of the board, which is dominated by Democrats.

"I came with the mindset of working to ensure and strengthen accountability, curriculum, transparency and safety in the district," Mr. Cole said. "I'm committed to bringing that same mindset to the Statehouse."

Even though it contains solely Democrats, he said, the school board has taught him valuable lessons.

"Even if everyone's on the same page from the politics standpoint everyone brings different points of view, skills, knowledge and attitude," Mr. Cole said. "Working among a body politic making decisions and brokering decisions...on matters that effect people is something I've tremendously learned from this experience."

Ms. Crawley is also a transplant, hailing originally from Youngstown. She spent 2000-2003 serving in the United States Navy in Virginia. After giving birth to twin girls - Hope and Faith, who are now 13 - she moved to Cleveland where she finished her college degree in criminology with a focus on juvenile delinquency.

Next was a stint in Atlanta where she received her masters and had an array of jobs centered on supporting youth including work for the Black Child Development Institute and the Court Appointed Special Advocate program.

She returned to Columbus where she attended Capital University Law School, graduating in 2017 with a concentration in civil litigation. Following that, she clerked for Honda North America and since 2016 has clerked for Eastman and Smith's Columbus office.

Both candidates list education as a central plank of their platforms. For Ms. Crawley that means ensuring equal access to quality education.

"I am an advocate for universal Pre-K," she said. "But also making sure all of our children have the same opportunities. Addressing school funding and school resources definitely plays a part."

She said she also wants to expand trade school options for young students and to focus on economic development.

"Especially in the 26th District there is disinvestment and underinvestment in that community," she said. "I would love to focus on micro-business and small businesses and making sure my neighbors have access to those resources."

She added she'd press for equal access in other areas, such as healthcare, including addiction and mental health support services.

"With that, making sure our aging population has the services they need," Ms. Crawley added. "There are a lot of grandparents taking care of their grandchildren and they don't have the resources necessary to do that effectively."

On the education front, Mr. Cole said he wants to restore consistency, including possibly by requiring five-year curriculum plans. He likened his experience on the board to being Harry Houdini locked in a box with the key inside as he's thrown over Niagara Falls.

"I find out a lot of what confines public schools period...is they are all boxed in by state laws that don't take consideration to how certain things affect us," he said. "From funding to property taxes to education and curriculum and how important it is to make sure it's steady, consistent."

In other areas, Mr. Cole said he wants to alleviate property tax burdens and create more opportunities for mixed income housing.

"I think there are any number of ways we can look at funding public education that doesn't solely fall on the backs of property owners, particularly in poor communities," he said. "I think we can do some income tax sharing. ... I think there are some win-wins. We just have to turn over some stones."

Ms. Crawley said she's the candidate voters should turn to if they seek experience thanks to a career and life experience span the spectrum from nonprofit to for-profit, military and civilian.

"I've had a commitment to being of service to others," she said. "If you look at my career either professionally or in volunteerism...I have always had a commitment to making a difference in the communities in which I lived and making a difference especially for individuals who come from poverty or low-income families."

Mr. Cole and his wife Lee have three children, ages 21, 15 and 14. He is a substitute social studies teacher who enjoys motorcycles and muscle cars.

In addition to spending time with her daughters, Ms. Crawley said she collects books, particularly of the professional development variety or autobiographies.

Subscribers Note: *This story is part of a series focusing on key primary races for Ohio legislative seats. See Gongwer's Election Page for more information on 2018 contests, including our Key Races.*

OPA: Pharmacists Can Serve As Educators In Opioid Struggle

From asking customers to question potentially counterfeit pills to teaching them how to dissolve old medication in cat litter or coffee grounds, Ohio's pharmacists have a key role in fighting the state's opioid epidemic.

That was the message from officials with the Ohio Pharmacists Association to the nearly 1,000 pharmacists and students who attended the group's 140th annual conference and trade show Friday at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

Ernie Boyd, executive director of the OPA, said pharmacists and the public need to "keep the pressure on" to get patients to request other medications and medical professionals to write fewer prescriptions for opioids.

Mr. Boyd said over-the-counter drugs can be a fine alternative to prescription opiates. He said he thinks it was a "major mistake" to allow ibuprofen and other anti-inflammatory or pain-relief medication to be sold without a prescription.

"In the public's mind, (ibuprofen) is as innocuous as cheese or rutabaga because it's sold next to those products," he said. "I think that's insane. These are very potent drugs."

The public tends to believe prescription drugs inherently are more effective and over-the-counter drugs safer, Mr. Boyd said, adding that's not always the case.

The convention included a demonstration of multiple ways people can dispose of old or unneeded medication, from using specialty kits to mixing it with water and coffee grounds or cat litter to make it unpalatable to animals and children. Mr. Boyd said pharmacists can explain the importance and methods of disposal and serve on local drug task forces to assist in the opiate fight.

The group also advised pharmacists to explain the importance of avoiding medication from potentially dubious sources, whether it be an acquaintance or an online retailer.

"The large majority of internet sites are (fraudulent)," Mr. Boyd said. "Ninety-eight percent of the online pharmacies are not pharmacies at all. They're fake."

He said counterfeit pills may look virtually indistinguishable from pills produced by the actual manufacturer and could include powerful opioids such as fentanyl and carfentanyl. The consequences of consuming the bootleg drugs range from addiction to death.

Dr. Michael Ybarra, deputy vice president of advocacy and strategic alliances at PhRMA, said the public needs to get medicine from a trustworthy source. He said buying from "rogue online pharmacies" can be a dangerous move.

"The safest thing to do is to buy at a pharmacy," he said. "The U.S. distribution system is totally closed (with) FDA inspected facilities."

Mr. Boyd said there are some legitimate online pharmacy sites, which typically feature the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy's Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice Sites logo and have a pharmacy domain names.

The most important advice for members of the public, Mr. Boyd said, might simply be to stop using medication that was not prescribed to them.

"You just don't share any of the stuff, period," he said."

Medical Pot Program Halt Rejected; Complaint Against DeWine Dismissed; No New Trial For Beck; Buckeye Institute Weighs In On Case...

A Franklin County judge on Friday declined to put the state's medical marijuana program on hold.

Instead, Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge Richard Frye will consider the matter again at a May 11 hearing.

"We're pleased that there's been a decision not to pause the program," said Thomas Rosenberger, a spokesman for the National Cannabis Industry Association of Ohio.

The Friday hearing was a result of a lawsuit filed by Ohio Releaf LLC, which was denied a cultivator's license and subsequently sued the Department of Commerce for what it alleges is a failure to comply with public record laws and to hold a timely administrative appeal hearing.

DOC has hired an independent auditor to review its processes. (*See separate story*)

Dismissed Complaint: A three-judge panel has dismissed one of four counts of allegedly violating canons of the Ohio Judicial Code of Conduct filed against Ohio Supreme Court Justice Patrick DeWine.

The count alleges that Justice DeWine asked Hamilton County Prosecutor Joe Deters, who had 48 cases pending before the court at the time the complaint was filed, to hire his son for an internship.

The remaining allegations involve Justice DeWine's father, Attorney General Mike DeWine. The complaint alleges Justice DeWine improperly failed to recuse himself from cases in which AG DeWine is named as a party and that he appears on his father's gubernatorial campaign web site.

Justice DeWine has denied all of the alleged charges.

New Trial: The nation's highest court has declined to order a new trial for a former state lawmaker.

The U.S. Supreme Court declined to grant the request of former Rep. Peter Beck for a new trial. The decision was issued without comment.

Mr. Beck in 2015 was found guilty of 13 charges and sentenced to serve four years in prison. However, a state appellate court in 2016 overturned 10 charges and Mr. Beck served just 16 months in prison.

Amicus Brief: The Buckeye Institute has filed an amicus brief with the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals asking it to strike down a Tennessee law it says discriminates against outdoor advertisements and signs with ideological messages.

The group said the law, which is designed to be in compliance with the Highway Beautification Act of 1965, is a violation of the First Amendment.

"While we all enjoy a scenic drive and beautiful roadways, the First Amendment is even more precious to Americans and its protections must not be violated in the name of highway beautification," President and CEO Robert Alt said in a statement. "Restricting the placement of outdoor advertisements solely based on the sign's message is a clear infringement of free speech and must be overturned."

Crew Dispute: Major League Soccer and the Precourt Sport Ventures, owner of the Columbus Crew, have asked the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas to dismiss a lawsuit designed to prevent the team from moving to Texas.

In a motion to dismiss, the groups call the Art Modell law "blatantly unconstitutional."

"The statute violates the dormant Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution because it both discriminates against out-of-state residents and impermissibly interferes with the defendants' abilities to conduct their business in interstate commerce," the filing reads.

The law requires the owner of an Ohio professional sports team that plans to cease playing most of its home games in the state to provide six months' notice in order to give others an opportunity to purchase the franchise.

Disciplinary Cases: The Board of Professional Conduct on Friday announced that it has filed 10 disciplinary case reports with the high court.

Issue 1 Backers Tout Endorsements; Cordray Takes Credit For Wells Fargo Fine; Yuko Calls For Action On Guns...

The bipartisan Coalition for Redistricting Reform, the group backing Issue 1, on Friday announced a slew of endorsements for the ballot measure.

The endorsements include the Ohio AFL-CIO, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, the Ohio Council of Churches, the Ohio Education Association, the Ohio Environmental Council, the Ohio Farm Bureau and the NAACP Ohio Chapter.

Campaign advisor Keary McCarthy in a statement said the endorsements "truly signal the bipartisan nature of fixing the way we draw our congressional districts in Ohio."

"Our state lawmakers stepped up to make this bipartisan fix to a very partisan problem a reality, and I'm thrilled to see these powerful groups across Ohio come aboard," he added.

Wells Fargo: Richard Cordray on Friday weighed in on the news that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau fined Wells Fargo \$1 billion.

The bureau's former director in a statement sought to downplay the role that acting Director Mick Mulvaney played in issuing the fine.

"Mulvaney has brought no new enforcement actions since he has been at the CFPB," he said. "Investigations that take many months or even years, and that are just now being finalized, are due to the aggressive work my team did to bring predatory behavior to light. To suggest this is the work of Mulvaney, who has done nothing but throw sticks in the spokes of a talented, hard-working CFPB team of devoted public servants is preposterous."

Gun Legislation: Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko (D-Richmond Hts.) used the anniversary of the Columbine school shooting to call for legislation to reduce gun violence.

Sen. Yuko in a statement commended students who on Friday walked out of school to mark the 19th anniversary of the school shooting.

"Our young people have sent us a clear message: we need to act now to protect them. The Senate Democratic Caucus has introduced numerous common-sense proposals to address gun violence and help keep our kids safe. Many of these bills have yet to receive a hearing," he said.

"As a leader in the Ohio Senate, I know we have to do more to stop violence in our schools. Schools should be places where children worry about upcoming math tests, and not about active shooters."

Gun Rally: Three gun rights groups on Saturday will hold a "Patriot Day Rally" at the Statehouse.

The 11 a.m. event hosted by Ohioans for Concealed Carry, Ohio Carry and the Buckeye Firearms Association will feature historical information on the role of private gun ownership in the country's founding and immigrants who will talk about their experiences before and after coming to America, according to a release.

NFIB Endorsement: Rep. Larry Householder (R-Glenford), a speaker hopeful, has the backing of National Federation of Independent Business/Ohio in his reelection bid, the group announced Friday.

Roger Geiger in a statement said Rep. Householder "understands the issues important to Ohio entrepreneurs as demonstrated by his strong voting record with NFIB."

Sheehy Calls For Further Action On Ag Runoff; OEC Proposes Toxic Chemical Protections

Rep. Michael Sheehy (D-Oregon) criticized state leaders this week after a recent report showed more work is needed to curb the runoff of phosphorus and other nutrients into Ohio's waterways.

His remarks were centered on the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's Nutrient Mass Balance Study. The report found "no clear decrease" in nutrient loading, especially from nonpoint sources like agricultural runoff. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 17, 2018)

Rep. Sheehy in a statement singled out farmers for their role in contributing to runoff that can fuel harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie.

"This new report shows that despite years of deceptive talking points from powerful industry representatives in Columbus, we know where all this excess phosphorus pollution has been coming from," Rep. Sheehy said.

"It's not complicated: if you are causing nearly 90% of a problem, you should participate in searching for a solution," he continued. "Instead, their lobbyists have prioritized fighting against policy solutions and even shifting the blame to urban centers that suffer the worst of these consequences."

The Ohio Farm Bureau previously said the report shows that agriculture must play a role in improving water quality. But a spokesman said new regulations aren't needed in the group's view.

Chemicals: The Ohio Environmental Council is requesting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency crack down on toxic chemicals.

The request comes in the form of a petition for rulemaking filed by the council seeking new protections against carcinogen perfluorooctanoic acid and other substances that can be pumped into water and air by manufactures.

"These companies need to stop emitting these chemicals before extensively studying them, and our proposed rules would stop this dangerous practice," said Chris Tavenor, an OEC law fellow.

Copies of the request were also submitted to President Donald Trump, Gov. John Kasich, Ohio EPA Director Craig Butler, Attorney General Mike DeWine and members of Ohio's congressional delegation.

Ohio Lands \$26 Million In Federal Opioid Funding; Senators Applaud Disaster Request Approval...

For the second consecutive year, Ohio is poised to receive a \$26 million funding infusion to buoy efforts to combat the opioid epidemic.

The funding announced this week comes from the 21st Century CURES Act passed in 2016. It's part of \$485 million in grants to be divvied up among states this year. Ohio received a similar amount of dollars under the program last year during the first round of funding. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 20, 2017)

"This is good news for Ohio, and these new funds will help our efforts to combat the heroin and prescription drug epidemic gripping our state," U.S. Sen. Rob Portman (R-Terrace Park) said in a statement. "This is another positive step forward, but we must do more, and that's why I continue to push for common-sense solutions like the STOP Act and CARA 2.0 that will help us turn the tide of addiction in Ohio and around the country."

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Cleveland) likewise applauded word of the additional funding.

"For too long, Ohio communities have been desperate for the federal government to step up and provide the necessary resources to effectively combat the opioid epidemic," Sen. Brown said. "While we know there is more work to be done, this funding is a meaningful step forward for Ohio. It's important that the state work to get this funding out to local communities quickly as they continue to battle this epidemic."

The dollars are aimed at boosting evidence-based programs and are overseen by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Emergency: Sens. Brown and Portman also welcomed President Donald Trump's approval of Gov. John Kasich's request for disaster assistance following largescale flooding in February. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 17, 2018)

Sen. Brown said the declaration "will go a long way in helping reassure Ohio communities impacted by last month's devastating floods that they are not alone."

Sen. Portman said, "It will allow our affected communities to get much-needed federal assistance following this winter's terrible storms."

Wright-Patterson: Ohio delegates urged the Pentagon to pick the Dayton-area Air Force base to house the F-35 Hybrid Product Support Integrator Organization.

Wright-Patterson is "uniquely qualified" to handle that role, which could mean an additional 400 jobs, all of Ohio's senators and representatives wrote to Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson.

"Based on the criteria used during the strategic basing process, we believe WPAFB's workforce makes the base the logical location for HPSI," the lawmakers wrote. "The basing process specifically requires acquisition professionals who are Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act certified with tactical fighter support experience, and WPAFB's workforce of engineers, programs managers, logistics managers, and contracting personnel would provide HPSI with an exceptional staff."

Chamber Of Commerce Endorses Issue 1; P&G, Key, More Report Financial Results; Toledo Businesswoman Added To SBAC

The Ohio Chamber of Commerce has thrown its support behind a ballot issue aimed at reforming the state's redistricting guidelines.

The group's board of directors earlier this week voted to support Issue 1.

"The Ohio Chamber has long recognized the need for sensible changes to the redistricting process and we are pleased to join the bipartisan coalition supporting State Issue 1," President & CEO Andrew E. Doehrel said in a statement. "Job creators know the value of a fair and competitive playing field in the marketplace, and State Issue 1 will bring this element of necessary, healthy competition to congressional campaigns, as well."

Mr. Doehrel said the group twice in the past 15 years opposed redistricting efforts that "did not represent a consensus approach."

Procter & Gamble: The Cincinnati-based company saw net sales of \$16.3 billion in the third quarter, up by 4% from the previous year.

Organic sales increased 1% for the quarter ended March 31, P&G reported. Diluted net earnings per share were \$0.95, an increase of 2%.

Operating cash flow was \$3.4 billion for the quarter, while adjusted free cash flow productivity was 95%, according to the company.

P&G returned \$3.2 billion to shareholders via \$1.8 billion of dividend payments and \$1.4 billion of common stock repurchase.

"We delivered modest top- and bottom-line growth in a challenging macro environment in the third quarter," Chairman, President and CEO David Taylor said in a statement. "We have large businesses in several difficult markets. The ecosystems in which we operate around the world are being disrupted and transformed. We will change at an even faster rate -- winning through superiority, cost and cash productivity and a strengthened organization and culture."

KeyCorp: The Cleveland-based company reported \$402 million in net income, or \$0.38 per common share, in the first quarter.

The financial services company reported net income of \$296 million over the same period in the previous year.

"First quarter was a good start to the year, with continuing momentum in our core businesses, as we grew and expanded relationships with our targeted clients," Chairman and CEO Beth Mooney said in a statement. "Revenue increased over 3% from the same period last year, driven by a higher net interest income, solid loan growth and stronger fee income."

First Financial: The Cincinnati-based bank reported net income of \$30.5 million, or \$0.49 per diluted common share, in the first quarter.

First financial reported net income of \$24.8 million, or \$0.40 per diluted common share, in the previous quarter.

"We are extremely pleased with our strong first quarter performance, representing our 110th consecutive quarter of profitability and top-quartile level returns," Executive Chairman Claude Davis said in a statement. "We are also excited about our recent merger with MainSource which closed on April 1st. We welcome our new colleagues from MainSource and together look forward to building an even stronger company going forward."

SBAC: Lt. Gov. Mary Taylor has appointed Jennifer Zalecki to the Small Business Advisory Council.

Ms. Zalecki serves as president and CEO of Toledo-based Battery Wholesale. The company, which Ms. Zalecki's father founded in 1983, operates seven retail stores in the greater Toledo area.

"Jennifer has been an effective small business advocate through her service to the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce and has demonstrated her high business acumen through the success of her own company," Lt. Gov. Taylor said.

Governor's Appointments

Ohio Thoroughbred Race Fund Advisory Council: Kimpton E. Williams of Waynesville for a term beginning April 20, 2018, and ending January 31, 2021.

State Board of Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services: Capt. Kevin T. Uhl of Sycamore Township for a term beginning April 20, 2018, and ending November 12, 2019.

Public Benefits Advisory Board: Dasmine Wright of Columbus for a term beginning April 20, 2018, and ending June 30, 2018.

Supplemental Agency Calendar

Monday, April 23

Human Trafficking Commission, 18th Fl., 150 E. Gay St., Columbus, 2 p.m.

Friday, April 27

Accountancy Board, 77 S. High St., Conference Room West B & C, 31st Floor, Columbus, 10 a.m.

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed,
Tom Gallick, Staff Writers

Click the  after a bill number to create a saved search and email alert for that bill.

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Event Planner

Saturday, April 21

YMCA Youth & Government High School State Assembly 2, Statehouse, Columbus

Tuesday, April 24

OAHU Annual Day at the Statehouse, Sheraton Columbus Hotel at Capitol Square, 75 East State Street, Columbus

Rep. Andy Brenner (R-Powell) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - Parlor A/B, 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Brenner for Ohio)

Sen. Matt Huffman (R-Lima) & Sen. John Eklund (R-Chardon) fundraiser, Pins, 141 N. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Matt Huffman for Ohio and/or Friends of John Eklund)

House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5 p.m., (Chair: \$3,700; Sponsor: \$1,370 to Committee to Elect Cliff Rosenberger)

Ohio Chemistry Technology Council's 30th Annual Legislative Reception, Renaissance Columbus Downtown Hotel, 50 North Third Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m.

Ohio Aggregates and Industrial Minerals Association 20th Annual Legislative Reception, Statehouse Atrium, Columbus, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 25

American Heart Association/American Stroke Association Advocacy Day, Riffe Center, 77 S. High St., Davidson Theatre, Columbus

Sen. Bill Beagle (R-Tipp City) and Sen. Peggy Lehner (R-Kettering) fundraiser, Pins, 141 N. 4th Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$350 to Citizens for Bill Beagle and/or Citizens for Lehner)

Sen. Scott Oelslager (R-N. Canton) & Sen. Frank Hoagland (R-Adena) fundraiser, Athletic Club of Columbus - 136 E. Broad Street, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Checks to Oelslager for Ohio Committee and/or Hoagland for Ohio)

Rep. Jim Hughes (R-Columbus) fundraiser, Valters at the Mannerchor, 976 S. High St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Host: \$1,000, Sponsor: \$500; Patron: \$250, Individual: \$75 to Committee for Jim Hughes)

Thursday, April 26

Deadline to file pre-primary campaign finance reports

Rep. Glenn Holmes (D-McDonald) fundraiser, Vernon's Italian Ristorante, 720 Youngstown-Warren Road, Niles, 5 p.m., (Event Sponsor \$1500, Supporter \$1000,

Friend \$500, Table Sponsor \$300, Individual \$60 to Committee to Elect Glenn Holmes)

Rep. Nathan Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) fundraiser, Berry's Restaurant, 15 W. Main Street, Norwalk, 5 p.m., (Sponsor: \$250 to Nathan Manning for Ohio)

Rep. Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville) fundraiser, Aloft Columbus Westerville, 32 Heatherdown Drive, Westerville, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor: \$1,000 | Host: \$500 | Guest: \$250 to Citizens for Anne Gonzales)

Rep. Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus) fundraiser, The Lincoln Caf~~e~~ 740 E. Long St., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (\$250, \$100, \$50, \$25 to Friends of Hearcel F. Craig)

Tuesday, May 1

Lobbyists/Employers can begin filing January-April 2018 Activity & Expenditure Reports

Wednesday, May 2

Pro-life Legislative Day

Thursday, May 3

Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) fundraiser, Portage Country Club, 240 N. Portage Path, Akron, 5:30 p.m., (Chair: \$5,000 | Sponsor: \$2,500 | Host: \$1,000 | Guest: \$250 to Kristina Daley Roegner for Ohio)

Tuesday, May 8

Primary election day

Thursday, May 10

YMCA Youth & Government Model United Nations, Statehouse, Columbus

Friday, May 11

YMCA Youth & Government Model United Nations, Statehouse, Columbus

Saturday, May 12

YMCA Youth & Government Model United Nations, Statehouse, Columbus

Tuesday, May 15

Deadline for most public officials and employees to file personal financial disclosure statements.

Ohio Association of Health Plans Annual Legislative Reception, Statehouse Rotunda, Columbus, 5 p.m., (Please RSVP to Stacy Bewley at sbewley@oahp.org or for any questions call (614) 228-4662.)

Rep. John Rogers (D-Mentor-on-the-Lake) & Rep. John Patterson (D-Jefferson) fundraiser, Club 185, 185 E. Livingston Ave., Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Sponsor Levels: Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Friends of Rogers and Committee to Elect John Patterson. RSVP with Jenna Gravalis at 551-429-9895 or jgravalis@ohiodems.org)

Wednesday, May 16

Ohio Auctioneers Association legislative day

Rep. Michele Lepore-Hagan (D-Youngstown) fundraiser, Einstein Bros. Bagels, 41 S. High Street, Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Michele Lepore-Hagan for State Representative)

2018 Arts Day & Governor's Awards for the Arts in Ohio Luncheon, The Columbus Athenaeum, 32 North Fourth Street, Columbus, 12 p.m.

Tuesday, May 22

Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Legislative Reception & Technology Demo, 77 S. High St., Capitol Theater Lobby, Columbus, 5 p.m.

Rep. David Leland (D-Columbus) fundraiser, Market 65, 65 East State Street, Columbus, 5:30 p.m., (Guest - \$250; Host - \$500; Sponsor - \$1,000; Gold Sponsor- \$2,500 to Friends of David Leland)

Wednesday, May 23

Rep. Kent Smith (D-Euclid) fundraiser, Einstein Bros. Bagels, 41 S. High Street, Columbus, 8 a.m., (Sponsor \$1,000, Host \$500, Friend \$350 to Kent Smith Committee)

Rep. John Becker (R-Union Township) fundraiser, Ringside, 19 N. Pearl St., Columbus, 11:30 a.m., (Host: \$1000; Sponsor:\$500; Host:\$350 to Friends of Becker)

Rep. Doug Green (R-Mt. Orab) fundraiser, OHROC , 21 W Broad St. 7th Floor, Columbus, 4:30 p.m., (Host: \$1000; Sponsor: \$500; Host: \$350 to Committee to Elect Doug Green)

Thursday, May 24

Rep. Rick Perales (R-Beavercreek) golf outing fundraiser

Thursday, May 31

JLEC Deadline for filing January-April 2018 Activity & Expenditure Reports

Friday, June 1

Sen. Gayle Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) & Rep. Nathan Manning (R-N. Ridgeville) golf outing fundraiser, Bob-O-Link Golf Course, 4141 Center Road (Rt. 83), Avon, 9:30 a.m., (9:30am Registration | 10:30am Shotgun Start | 3:30pm Appetizers and Awards; , Avon, Ohio 44011 Eagle Sponsor: \$1,500 | Birdie Sponsor: \$750 |

Foursome: \$400 | Hole Sponsor: \$200 | Individual Golfer: \$125 to Committee to Elect Gayle Manning and/or Nathan Manning for Ohio)

Monday, June 4

Sen. Bob Peterson (R-Sabina) golf outing fundraiser, Crown Hill Golf Club, 9500 U.S. 22, Williamsport, 12 p.m., (12:00pm Lunch | 12:30pm Shotgun Start | 5:00pm Dinner. Tournament Sponsor \$2,000 | Eagle Sponsor: \$1,000 | Birdie Sponsor: \$500 | Hole Sponsor: \$200 | Individual Golfer: \$100 | Dinner Only: \$50 to Peterson for Good Government)

Friday, June 8

House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger (R-Clarksville) golf outing fundraiser

Monday, June 11

**Rep. Scott Ryan (R-Newark) golf outing fundraiser
Ohio's 2018 Opiate Conference: Strengthening Ohio's Communities, Hyatt Regency, 350 N. High St., Columbus**

Tuesday, June 12

Ohio's 2018 Opiate Conference: Strengthening Ohio's Communities, Hyatt Regency, 350 N. High St., Columbus

Friday, June 15

Deadline to file post-primary campaign finance reports

Monday, June 18

Sen. President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) golf outing fundraiser

Monday, June 25

**Rep. Brian Hill (R-Zanesville) golf outing fundraiser
Ohio Cable Telecommunications Association Golf Outing, The Lakes, 6740 Worthington Rd., Westerville**

Monday, July 16

Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin) golf outing fundraiser

Thursday, July 19

Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls) Batter Up fundraiser

Friday, July 20

Rep. Tom Patton (R-Strongsville) golf outing fundraiser

Sunday, July 22

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Monday, July 23

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Tuesday, July 24

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Wednesday, July 25

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Sen. Rob McColley (R-Napoleon) golf outing fundraiser

Thursday, July 26

Rep. Craig Riedel (R-Defiance) golf outing fundraiser

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Friday, July 27

YMCA Youth & Government Leaders Training School, Statehouse, Columbus

Tuesday, July 31

Deadline to file semi-annual campaign finance reports

Friday, August 3

Deadline for statewide candidates to file July campaign finance reports

Tuesday, August 7

Special election for 12th Congressional District seat

Thursday, August 16

Sen. Bob Hackett (R-London) golf outing fundraiser

Monday, August 20

Rep. Laura Lanese (R-Grove City) golf outing fundraiser

Thursday, August 23

Hamilton County GOP State Legislative golf outing fundraiser

Saturday, September 1

Lobbyists/Employers can begin filing May-August 2018 Activity & Expenditure Reports

Thursday, September 6

Deadline for statewide candidates to file August campaign finance reports

Monday, October 1

JLEC Deadline for filing May-August 2018 Activity & Expenditure Report

Wednesday, October 3

Deadline for statewide candidates to file September campaign finance reports

Thursday, October 25

Deadline to file pre-general campaign finance reports

Tuesday, November 6

General election day

Saturday, December 1

Lobbyists can begin renewing Legislative, Executive and Retirement System registrations for 2019

Friday, December 14

Deadline to file post-general campaign finance reports

Monday, December 31

All 2018 Legislative, Executive and Retirement System lobbying registrations expire in OLAC

Thursday, January 31

Deadline to 2018 annual campaign finance reports

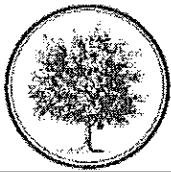
Deadline to 2018 annual campaign finance reports

17 S. High St., Suite 630
Columbus Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-221-1992 | Fax: 614-221-7844 | Email: gongwer@gongwer-oh.com

Scott Miller, President | Kent Cahlander, Editor | Mike Livingston, Dustin Ensinger, Jon Reed, Tom Gallick, Staff Writers

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From: The Buckeye Institute
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2018 7:04 AM
To: Snider, Grace
Subject: Using Health Care Waivers to Reform a Broken System, By Rea S. Hederman Jr.



THE BUCKEYE INSTITUTE

Using Health Care Waivers to Reform a Broken System

By Rea S. Hederman Jr.

April 20, 2018

Actions by the federal government have taken health care out of the hands of state officials and centralized it in Washington. The result: families are paying ever higher health insurance premiums for coverage they often do not want or need. This means less money to pay other bills, college tuition, or even buy food. And although federal policies to expand Medicaid had the best of intentions, the program has been drastically altered and is having the unintended consequence of trapping people in low-paying jobs or encouraging them to leave the workforce or work fewer hours so they qualify for Medicaid.

The good news is, this trend is reversing and the federal government is giving states new flexibility to fix their health insurance markets. While having to ask the federal government for permission is not the optimal strategy, it is an improvement, and Ohio is taking advantage of this opportunity.

On March 30, Ohio became the first state to file a **state innovation or 1332 waiver**, which will eliminate the individual mandate penalty for Ohioans for the next five years. If approved, the waiver will protect Ohioans from being forced to buy a product they do not want or need. In fact, in November of 2011 Ohioans **overwhelmingly passed** a state constitutional amendment opposing this federal mandate, recognizing that they know better than the federal government how to spend their own money.

While Ohio is the first state to use the 1332 waiver to eliminate the individual mandate, other states have used the waivers to try and stabilize their individual insurance markets. While Ohio's 1332 waiver request is a good start, the state must continue to utilize the waiver process to improve our health care system. For example, Ohio should look for ways to waive the employer mandate and should push the Trump administration to **issue new guidance** on how innovation waivers can be used to exempt employers from the mandate fine. These changes would enable Ohio businesses to provide more job opportunities to Ohioans.

The 1332 waiver isn't the only one Ohio is pursuing. The state is finalizing its application for the Medicaid community engagement waiver, which, as we said in our **public comments**, will help healthy, able-bodied adults gain work experience and learn new skills. These new skills will result in higher lifetime earnings and income, and as we learned from the bipartisan welfare reform law of the 1990s, will encourage recipients to work.

Ohio's Medicaid community engagement waiver is an important, but only a single, step in Medicaid reform. Neighboring states like Kentucky and Indiana have submitted stronger reform packages that combine community engagement with other reforms such health savings accounts, better benefits for recipients who engage in healthy behaviors, and cost-sharing provisions. These reforms will help Medicaid recipients obtain private coverage, which has been shown to offer **better care than Medicaid**.

To serve Ohioans best, policymakers should develop a comprehensive Medicaid reform plan with the goals of helping Medicaid recipients obtain and keep private coverage, and getting access to the care that meets their needs.

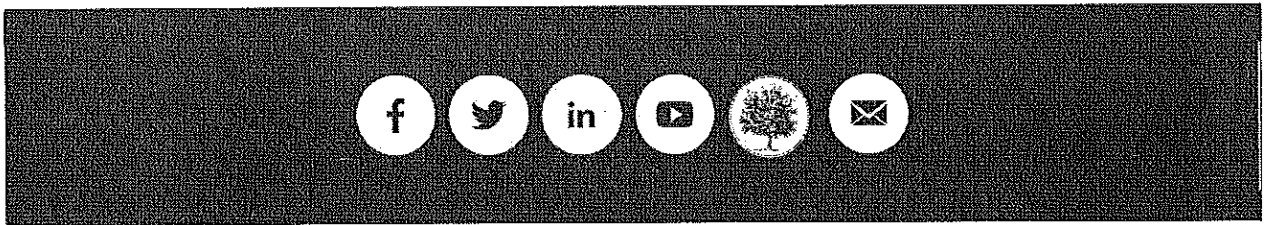
Up until this point, the federal government's approach to health care has been a one-size-fits-all solution. This approach has not worked and does not give states the flexibility they need to fix or make improvements to their health insurance markets. It now appears that the federal government is willing to work with the states and Ohio should seize this opportunity to make bold improvements to its system that will better serve Ohioans and their families.

*Rea S. Hederman Jr. is executive director of the Economic Research Center at The Buckeye Institute and vice president of policy. A nationally recognized health care policy expert, Hederman is the co-author of **Returning Health Care Power to the States**.*

###

Founded in 1989, The Buckeye Institute is an independent research and educational institution - a think tank - whose mission is to advance free-market public policy in the states.

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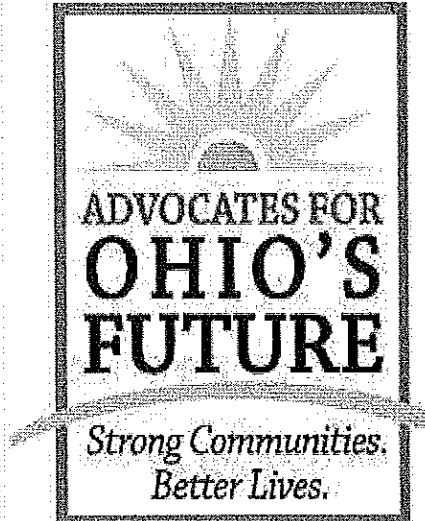
Sent by info@buckeyeinstitute.org

From: Advocates for Ohio's Future
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 9:00 AM
To: Snider, Grace
Subject: New Director at Advocates for Ohio's Future!

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*Advocates for Ohio's Future is excited to
Welcome new Coalition Manager Kelsey
Bergfeld!*

April 24, 2018



[Click here to go to our website](#)

For Immediate Release

COLUMBUS, OH – Advocates for Ohio's Future (AOF) is pleased to announce that Ms. Kelsey Bergfeld will become the organization's Coalition Manager on May 1.

AOF is a statewide coalition of nearly 500 local and statewide organizations that promote health and human service solutions so all Ohioans live better lives.

"I think Kelsey brings considerable advocacy and legislative experience to Advocates for Ohio's Future," said Lisa Hamler-Fugitt, the Executive Director of the Ohio Association of Food Banks and a co-chair of AOF.

Bergfeld most recently worked as the Legislative Liaison for SEIU District 1199 WV/KY/OH, and prior to that, was a Senior Legislative Aide for State Senator Tom Sawyer.

"We're excited about the experiences that Kelsey brings to the position. She has a wealth of knowledge in the legislative process and Ohio's health and human services system. Kelsey will be a great addition to our AOF team as we work to make sure all Ohioans live better lives. We look forward to her leading AOF into the future," said Mark Davis, President of Ohio Provider Resource Association and a co-chair of AOF.

In Bergfeld's new role, she will provide leadership in AOF's coalition work and policy advocacy. She will also work to develop legislative strategy for AOF and its members.

"Kelsey's understanding of the legislative landscape, certainly around health and human services programs, is very strong, and I think she is going to be a really

confident leader and a strong voice for our public policy agenda and representing our diverse coalition partners,= 2 said Hamler-Fugitt.

For more information on AOF, find us on Twitter at @Advocates4Ohio, on Facebook at Facebook.com/advocatesforohio or visit our website www.advocatesforohio.org.

Advocates for Ohio's Future
101 E. Town Street, Suite 520
Columbus, OH 43215
614-221-4945
www.advocatesforohio.org

[Click here to go to our website](http://www.advocatesforohio.org)

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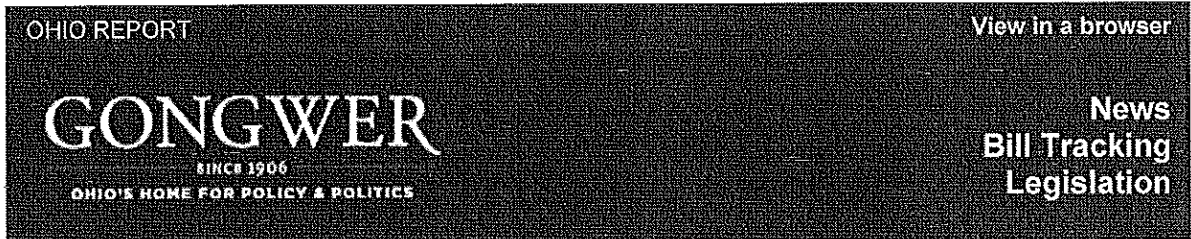
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Sent: Wednesday, April 25, 2018 6:11 PM
To: Snider, Grace
Subject: Ohio Report, Wednesday, April 25, 2018
Attachments: Apr25.htm; 180425dayplan.htm



OHIO REPORT WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25

Senate Leader Points To Variety Of Proposals After Kasich Urges Gun Safety Bill Vote

PUCO Approves Modified AEP Rate Settlement

House GOP To Vote May 15 On Next Speaker

Coal Group, Farm Bureau Urge Panel To Maintain Industry Tax Exemptions

Supreme Court Keeps In Place Rulings On Transfer Agreement, Autopsies

High Court Clarifies Appellate Review Of Arbitration Appeals

Cordray Campaign Pledges To Protect, Expand Veterans Benefits

Obhof OK With Legislative Look At E-School Enrollment Rules; OSU Joins Anti-Poverty Effort; Portman Bill Targets Tech Teacher Training; Auditor Issues Bus Study...

Space Embarks On Tour To Highlight Corruption; Cordray Launches New Ad; Yuko Gets SEIU Backing...

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Volume #87, Report #80 -- Wednesday, April 25, 2018

Senate Leader Points To Variety Of Proposals After Kasich Urges Gun Safety Bill Vote

Gov. John Kasich wants to see a set of gun safety proposals he is supporting come up for a vote, but one legislative leader said his chamber is working through several firearm-related issues.

The governor said Tuesday he hoped to see a vote on a proposal (HB 585 & SB 288) to make several changes to the state's gun laws. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 5, 2018)

Gov. Kasich pointed to the deadly shooting over the weekend at a Tennessee Waffle House restaurant, saying the state needs a "red flag" law to seize guns from people determined to be dangerous. That someone was able to stop the shooter while he reloaded also shows the need for limiting the capacity of magazines, the governor said.

The governor's proposals, particularly the "red flag" language creating extreme risk protection orders, have met pushback from some Republican legislators. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 10, 2018)

Gov. Kasich said he still expects the proposal to become law.

"We're going to get this package through," he said. "This is going to happen. It's not going to be easy to duck and run away and put your head in the sand. I will not let that happen. Maybe they can stop it, but it isn't going to be without a lot of people feeling a lot, a lot of pressure."

The governor said the gun safety proposal would likely pass if brought up for a vote.

"Bring it up and have a vote on it," he said. "We'll see where the votes are. Let's see where the majority of the caucus is. I guarantee you, you put this gun safety on the Senate floor, it passes. We need a vote."

Senate President Larry Obhof (R-Medina) said Wednesday he doesn't expect that exact proposal to come to the floor of his chamber, but that members are looking at several different items that could eventually pass.

"We have a very open process, we will look at a number of different changes related to firearms, some of which are in line with what the governor is looking at, some of which are longstanding problems that our caucus has felt we had a need to fix," he said.

The Senate leader pointed to legislation ranging from one sponsored by two Republicans to shift the burden of proof in self-defense cases, among other changes (SB 180), to proposals by Democrats to ban bump stocks (SB 219) and to create extreme risk protection orders (SB 278).

"Whether anything passes or whether a lot of it passes, we'll decide as a caucus," Sen. Obhof said.

The risk protection order measure, sponsored by Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-Boardman), is one where Sen. Obhof said he's spoken with the sponsor and with the National Rifle Association in an effort to work out differences.

"Everything's on the table," he said.

PUCO Approves Modified AEP Rate Settlement

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio's approval Wednesday of AEP Ohio's new rate plan sets the stage for what Chairman Asim Haque believes could be the state's longest period of rate stability in the last decade.

Mr. Haque made that assessment moments after the commission voted 4-0 to modify and approve a wide-ranging rate settlement agreement filed last year by AEP and 19 interested party groups. Commissioner Daniel Conway recused himself.

In addition to establishing rates until May 2024, the Electric Security Plan includes a \$21.1 million "Smart City Rider" to fund electric vehicle charging station development and microgrid investment.

If the commission later this year approves Duke Energy's own proposed settlement rate plan, rates would be stabilized for all four of Ohio's major electric utilities until the mid-2020s, Mr. Haque said.

"This decision represents stability for AEP customers," Mr. Haque said. "ESPs are big cases. They are time intensive and they are very litigious. To have stability in the AEP footprint...is a very good thing for AEP's current customers and for job creation in AEP's service territory."

The commission's order, which may still be appealed by opponents, has been years in the making.

AEP in 2016 filed its initial proposal but critics said that plan could pave the way for a 120% increase - from \$8.40 to \$18.40 a month - for affected customers. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, May 16, 2016)

The company filed a settlement agreement last year with 19 parties including the Ohio Manufacturers' Association, the Ohio Environmental Council, Industrial Energy Users-Ohio, the Natural Resources Defense Council to address those concerns. AEP has said

the stipulation would lead to a less than 50-cent increase in average monthly bills. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, August 28, 2017)

Julie Sloat, AEP Ohio president and chief operating officer, said in a statement the plan responds to consumer requests.

"Our customers want reliability and access to advanced technologies, such as EV charging stations, microgrids and renewable energy resources," she said.

"Our plan allows us to bring these services, which also will support economic development in Ohio, to customers across the state. The ESP enables us to continue our investments in the electric grid to provide reliable power and help advance the new technologies and cleaner energy that our customers want."

Dan Sawmiller, the NRDC's Ohio energy policy director, said one surprising modification made by the commission in its order is the removal of a provision that would have enabled AEP to push back that requested 120% increase until 2020.

Other wins from supporters' point of view is a \$10 million rebate program for electrical vehicle charging stations, \$10.5 million for microgrid projects, and regulatory tweaks clearing the way for 900 megawatts of clean energy in Appalachia, Mr. Sawmiller said.

"AEP's now going to be positioned to respond to the expectations of Ohio customers that have been pushing AEP to invest in more clean energy options for years," Mr. Sawmiller said. "On top of that there are some pilot programs in the stipulation and the data and the insight we're going to gain...create the groundwork for a lot of forward-looking progress."

The agreement still has its detractors, including the Ohio Consumers' Counsel, which has argued the deal lacks specifics on customer costs and that the "Smart City Rider" should have been tackled through a separate rate case. The OCC last month petitioned the PUCO to reopen the case to enable further debate. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 2, 2018)

"With the PUCO's approval of AEP's electric security plan today, the trend of charging Ohioans to subsidize outdated and non-competitive power plants continues," OCC spokeswoman Molly McGuire said. "And AEP's plan will also leave consumers paying subsidies for electric vehicle charging, microgrids, large customers (interruptible rates), automakers (bill credits), and possibly renewable energy."

The OCC has continued to press lawmakers to pass a bill (HB 247) banning Electric Security Plans, which it says deprive consumers of the benefits of competitive markets.

But in its order the PUCO determined that the ESP is "more favorable in the aggregate" than a market rate offer, which is the statutory guideline by which the commission evaluates ESPs.

"The ESP proposed in the stipulation affords customers in AEP Ohio's service territory numerous benefits and advances many of the state policy objectives enumerated in (Ohio Revised Code)," the PUCO's order reads.

Commissioner Lawrence Friedeman issued a concurring opinion elaborating on the aforementioned statutory provision - O.R.C. 4928.02 (C) - which establishes state policy as promoting customer choice, encouraging innovation and facilitating the development of the competitive retail electric market through flexible regulatory treatment.

Mr. Friedeman opined that market distortions resulting from cost imbalances might undermine that code section and that those distortions may "erect market barriers which have the tendency not to promote retail competition but rather to have an anti-competitive impact or in an extreme eventuality to re-monopolize the retail market inconsistent with enunciated state policy."

House GOP To Vote May 15 On Next Speaker

House Republicans will vote next month to choose the next speaker, and it is likely that the results of primary elections will influence who gets the gavel.

The majority caucus will vote at noon Tuesday, May 15, to choose its next leader, Speaker Pro Tem Rep. Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) said in a memo to members.

The special caucus will only consider votes for a new speaker to fill out the remainder of the year, not any other leadership positions, Rep. Schuring said.

The new speaker will replace Cliff Rosenberger, who resigned earlier this month amid an investigation by the FBI. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 12, 2018)

The speaker's race for the rest of the year could come down to the two candidates who have already been running for the job next year: Rep. Ryan Smith (R-Bidwell) and Rep. Larry Householder (R-Glenford). Another possibility is that the caucus will select a placeholder speaker to finish out the year, and Rep. Dorothy Pelanda (R-Marysville), who is term-limited, has expressed interest in that role.

Rep. Smith has said he's confident he can win the speaker's chair when a vote is called. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 13, 2018)

He and Rep. Householder have both been supporting candidates in primary races in an effort to secure a majority in the next General Assembly. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, January 30, 2018)

If the race comes down to Rep. Smith and Rep. Householder, a likely factor in the race will be the results of the primary election, to be held a week before the speaker vote.

The caucus could also choose a placeholder speaker, likely a term-limited member. Rep. Pelanda said she has discussed the possibility that she run to finish out the rest of

the year. Unlike the other hopefuls, she would be able to do so without the distraction of running in another election.

"I truly believe that it's in the best interest of the members of the Ohio House of Representatives that we have an interim leader to finish out the business of the 132nd General Assembly," she said in an interview.

She said she has not aligned herself with either of the other speaker candidates and said she has had "thoughtful, encouraging" conversations with fellow members about running.

"We've got three weeks until the election and the members will continue to be thoughtful about what is in the best interest going forward for this assembly," she said.

Coal Group, Farm Bureau Urge Panel To Maintain Industry Tax Exemptions

Existing tax breaks supporting the coal and agriculture sectors should be preserved, stakeholder groups told the Tax Expenditure Review Committee Wednesday.

The Ohio Coal Association and the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation were among a handful of interested groups arguing in favor of continuing certain tax exemptions as the panel considers whether to preserve or scrap them. (Testimony)

Their arguments are essentially the same - that their respective industries are experiencing trying times and therefore need all the assistance they can get.

OCA President Mike Cope said the coal industry is just now beginning to recover from the "relentless war on coal" waged by the Obama Administration.

"Any tax levied on the purchase of new equipment would be devastating to our recovering industry," Mr. Cope said. "State policy that could increase the cost of coal mining could translate into higher electricity bills for Ohio's consumers."

The tax credit Mr. Cope was referring to exempts tangible personal property used directly in mining. Memos from the Department of Taxation estimate that the break costs the General Revenue Fund \$73.4 million in Fiscal Year 2018 and \$74.3 million in FY 2019. (ODT Analyses)

The Farm Bureau, meanwhile, lobbied for the continuation of credits pertaining to tangible personal property used in agriculture and for the sales and installation of agricultural land tile and portable grain bins.

The former credit lowered GRF revenues by \$331.1 million and \$339.4 million in FY 2018 and 2019, ODT reported. The tile and grain bin concession has a smaller impact at just over \$1 million in each of those years.

"The application of sales tax to input costs of a capital intensive, low profit industry such as agriculture would have significant and severe consequences," said Tony Seegers, the group's director of state policy. "Farm Bureau strongly believes the sales tax exemption must be preserved."

If lawmakers did away with those tax credits, Mr. Seegers said, the higher costs wouldn't immediately be passed onto consumers through costs. Instead, he said farmers themselves would be forced to swallow the change.

"Because prices are dictated by commodity exchanges and global demand, increased costs associated with applying sales tax to inputs will largely be eaten by farmers," he said. "Considering the profit margins we operate on, one can't help to think this would very likely drive some farmers out of business."

The Ohio Council of Retail Merchants submitted written testimony defending an exemption for tangible personal property used in storing, preparing and serving food. ODT estimates a GRF impact of about \$34 million each fiscal year for the biennium due to that exemption.

"This exemption is vital to retailers engaged in providing food products to the general public, as well as to the public served by those retailers who benefit from lower prices as a result," the council argued.

Two other exemptions were on Wednesday's agenda but received no public feedback. They included sales of tangible personal property and services to electricity providers, and TPP used to produce printed materials. In Fiscal Years 2018-2019, those exemptions were expected to cost the GRF \$699.9 million and \$19.7 million respectively, according to ODT.

Wednesday's was the third overall meeting of the committee, which is tasked with reviewing all of Ohio's tax credits over the next eight years. The committee will meet again May 9 to discuss the remaining handful of sales and use tax breaks.

Chairman Sen. Scott Oelslager (R-N. Canton) said he anticipates the May meeting to be the committee's last this spring. The sales and use exemptions examined during the committee's meetings this year will form the basis of its first report this summer, he said.

"I think we're progressing in a manner that will help us make some decisions down the road and hopefully educate the people of Ohio who are watching," Sen. Oelslager said of the committee's work thus far.

The committee is expected to begin reviewing other exemptions heading into 2019 and has eight years to fully review all \$9 billion-plus a year Ohio's tax credits. The panel has already looked at manufacturing, packaging and a handful of other exemptions. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 11, 2018)

In general testimony, Zach Schiller, research director for Policy Matters Ohio, told members the legislature should appropriate funding for staff to undertake a more detailed analysis of the genesis of specific credits and how they have been broadened over time.

He also bemoaned that even as the committee continues its review lawmakers are still proposing and considering new tax exemptions through legislation.

"Adding new special-interest breaks is ill-conceived when this committee has barely started looking at the tax exemptions and credits we have now," Mr. Schiller said. "When the General Assembly thinks about giving away tens of millions for new business tax breaks, it should consider whether we have the money to pay for them, and whether the funds would be better spent educating young Ohioans, cutting our high infant-mortality rate, or fighting the opioid epidemic."

Supreme Court Keeps In Place Rulings On Transfer Agreement, Autopsies

The Ohio Supreme Court on Wednesday denied several motions for reconsideration, including in two high-profile cases involving abortion and public records.

In one case, the court declined to reconsider its February ruling that found the Department of Health was justified in revoking the operating license of a Toledo abortion clinic for lack of a written transfer agreement with a "local" hospital.

In the ruling, the court found that Capital Care Network of Toledo violated state administrative code by inking a written transfer agreement with an Ann Arbor hospital, which the ODH deemed to not be local. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, February 6, 2018)

Ohio Right to Life President Mike Gonidakis called on the state to revoke the license of Toledo's only abortion clinic.

"Capital Care Network owes an enormous fine of \$40,000 to the state of Ohio, based upon repeated violations of state law," he said. "The original Ohio Department of Health order remains in effect and in order to reopen, this abortion facility must reapply for a license and pay its fine before aborting anymore children."

However, in a statement of its own NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio called on the ODH to immediately reinstate the license for the clinic.

"This morning, a woman in Toledo woke up with the knowledge that she needed an abortion," Executive Director Kellie Copeland said. "There is a clinic in her community that can offer her safe and professional care. That clinic has met all state requirements to provide abortion services. John Kasich and Mike DeWine are standing in between that woman and this clinic, and they are violating her rights as they do so."

Shortly after the court's original decision, the clinic lined up a last-minute transfer agreement with ProMedica.

The court also declined to reconsider its December decision in which it ruled against two newspapers that sought to compel the release of the final, un-redacted autopsy reports of eight individuals murdered in a single night in April 2016 in a Pike County case that is still unsolved.

The divided court in a 4-3 decision found the records requested by the *Cincinnati Enquirer* and the *Columbus Dispatch* fall under the confidential law enforcement investigatory records exemption. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, December 14, 2017)

The newspapers had argued that under the law final autopsy reports do not qualify for the CLEIR exemption because a coroner is not a law enforcement official.

Justice Terrence O'Donnell and Justice Sharon Kennedy dissented with the ruling on the motion to reconsider.

In a less high-profile case, the court also declined to reconsider its decision not to accept jurisdiction in a case in which a commercial fishing operation alleged that the state's administrative code defining Lake Erie yellow perch management units is unconstitutionally vague. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, July 14, 2017)

High Court Clarifies Appellate Review Of Arbitration Appeals

When an appellate court reviews a lower court ruling on an arbitration decision it should conduct an independent review of the legal claims made on appeal, the Ohio Supreme Court ruled Wednesday.

In a unanimous decision authored by Justice Terrence O'Donnell, the high court determined appellate courts should accept findings of fact by trial courts that are not clearly made in error while reviewing the legal questions raised on appeal.

"When reviewing a trial court's decision to confirm, modify, vacate, or correct an arbitration award, an appellate court should accept findings of fact that are not clearly erroneous but should review questions of law de novo," Justice O'Donnell ruled.

The case stems from a dispute between the Portage County Board of Developmental Disabilities and one of its employees, the high court reported.

Patricia Byttner was hired to serve as an account clerk for the board with the understanding she would fill the role of a bus driver or bus aide in emergency situations.

After her hiring, Ms. Byttner refused a bus aide assignment, citing a pending knee surgery.

Two months later, the board amended her job description, leading to the union representing her to file a grievance. An arbitrator sided with Ms. Byttner and the union.

The board then successfully asked the Portage County Court of Common Pleas to vacate the ruling.

The union challenged the trial court decision at the Eleventh District Court of Appeals, which reinstated the arbitrator's decision.

However, the decision conflicted with other appellate court rulings, leading the case to the high court.

"In conformity with our resolution of the certified question, we recognize that the court of appeals conducted a proper de novo review of the trial court's decision in this case vacating the arbitration award, reversed its decision, reinstated the arbitration award, and therefore we affirm its judgment," Justice O'Donnell wrote for the court.

In his decision, Justice O'Donnell noted that nine of the state's appellate courts applied a de novo review while three applied an "abuse of discretion" review.

Tenth District Court of Appeals Judge Lisa Sadler sat in on the case for former Justice Bill O'Neill.

Cordray Campaign Pledges To Protect, Expand Veterans Benefits

Lieutenant governor candidate Betty Sutton on Wednesday unveiled her campaign's plan to safeguard health care benefits and create new employment protections for the state's servicemembers and veterans.

Ms. Sutton, the Democratic running mate of Rich Cordray, and former gubernatorial candidate Connie Pillich unveiled the campaign's policies regarding members of the armed forces at a press conference at the Statehouse Veterans Plaza.

The former congresswoman said the state has not done enough to support the men and women who are serving or have served in the military. She said enhancing services for veterans and better connecting them with existing resources would be a "top priority" in Cordray's administration.

"Too often our respect and admiration simply hasn't been matched by tangible action to help our veterans and servicemembers," she said.

The campaign's plan calls for the state to better fund county veterans services commissions to help them assist veterans making medical claims, offer incentives for employees who hire veterans with mild traumatic brain injuries, and protect the state's expansion of Medicaid for veterans who do not qualify for VA benefits.

Ms. Pillich, the head of the campaign's veterans policy team, said the "No. 1 concern" among veterans she has talked to throughout the state is health care. She said the Cordray campaign's plan would safeguard and expand important resources for servicemembers.

"Ohio veterans need much more than a specialty license plate," she said.

The former Ohio House member and U.S. Air Force veteran said the campaign also is proposing to include a box for veterans to check on state tax returns to allow the governor's office to identify them and connect them with available resources.

The plan also suggests the state protect the jobs of Army National Guard members who have been activated and allow spouses who lose their jobs because of a servicemember's transfer to collect unemployment benefits.

Ms. Sutton said she and her running mate also would make it a priority to take combat "predatory lenders" who target veterans.

"I can think of no leader with stronger credentials to do that than Rich Cordray," she said, citing her running mate's tenure as head of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Ms. Sutton, who previously served on the U.S. House Armed Services Committee, also pointed to Mr. Cordray's work on a successful 2009 ballot issue to authorize bonuses for veterans of conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq and the Persian Gulf as evidence of his support for servicemembers.

"We owe veterans an enormous debt of gratitude, but our gratitude must be matched by tangible action by state government to improve the lives of veterans, servicemembers and military families," Mr. Cordray said in a statement. "Betty and I will fight every day in office to honor those who have served and provide them with the support they need to thrive in Ohio."

Obhof OK With Legislative Look At E-School Enrollment Rules; OSU Joins Anti-Poverty Effort; Portman Bill Targets Tech Teacher Training; Auditor Issues Bus Study...

Senate President Larry Obhof on Wednesday said setting standards for verifying e-school enrollment falls within the legislature's purview after a whistleblower's claims thrust a shuttered charter school back into the spotlight.

The chamber leader said after a nonvoting session that the body "should take a look" at how the state measures enrollment and funds such schools rather than fully deferring to ODE.

"When the legislature's able to do things or has the responsibility for doing things, it should be the legislature, not an administrative agency, that does that," he said.

The Associated Press first reported an employee of the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow told Department of Education officials last year that the school demanded workers manipulate attendance figures after the state moved to recoup \$60 million in

payments. Within hours, the former employee's claim became an issue among candidates for attorney general and auditor. (See Gongwer Ohio Report, April 24, 2018)

Despite backing an examination of the issue by the legislature, Sen. Obhof (R-Medina) said he does not support "micromanaging all of the fine-tuned details" of the state's enrollment-verification process.

A bill (HB 611) sponsored by Rep. Keith Faber (R-Celina) and Rep. Kristina Roegner (R-Hudson) that would tie state payments to e-schools to the use of verifiable software that tracks attendance, class size and participation was introduced last week in the House.

Alliance for the American Dream: Ohio State University has received a \$1.5 grant after a philanthropic organization selected the school to participate in an effort aimed at bolstering the middle class.

Schmidt Futures, a group founded by former Alphabet Executive Chairman Eric Schmidt, announced this week it added OSU to its Alliance for the American Dream. The effort seeks to increase economic opportunities for working Americans and reduce poverty.

"We are delighted to announce that Ohio State will act as an inaugural partner in the Alliance for the American Dream," Mr. Schmidt said in a statement. "When I was in Columbus last December, I saw firsthand the energy and vibrancy of the campus and region. Columbus is a perfect place to find great, fresh ideas. We are delighted to support them as they fuel an innovation engine to help distressed communities and expand the middle class."

As part of the collaborative project, OSU will receive \$1.5 million in funding to engage business, community and government leaders in "in a robust brainstorming process," according to a news release from the school.

"As a modern land-grant university, Ohio State is committed to expanding opportunity, unlocking talent and increasing economic vitality," OSU President Michael V. Drake said in a statement. "We are absolutely thrilled to join the Alliance and to partner with individuals and communities on this important and timely endeavor. It's 'The Columbus Way' in action."

Teacher training bill: U.S. Senator Rob Portman announced the introduction of a bill aimed at establishing a grant program to support training for career and technical education teachers

"Quality CTE teachers play a key role in expanding access to high quality programs and making sure more students and parents recognize the value of a CTE education - all of which helps lead to more and better job opportunities for students," Sen. Portman said in a statement. "I'm proud to introduce this bipartisan bill to ensure that we have better prepared teachers for this generation and generations to come."

The Creating Quality Technical Educators Act would provide funding for one-year residencies at schools for potential career and technical educators.

Sen. Portman (R-Terrace Park) is co-chairman of the Career and Technical Education Caucus with Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA). The co-chairs introduced the legislation alongside Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV).

The Alliance for Excellent Education, the American Federation of Teachers and the Association for Career and Technical Education have expressed support for the measure.

Feasibility study: Belmont County school districts could save money by combining their efforts to maintain school buses, according to a study called the "first of its kind" by the state auditor's office.

The Bellaire Local School District, the Bridgeport Exempted Village School District, the Shadyside Local School District and the St. Clairsville-Richland City School District requested the state perform the study after seeing the number of bus riders decrease in recent years.

The study found the districts could operate more efficiently and save money by combining some maintenance efforts. Legislation (HB5) that took effect in 2016 gave the auditor's office the power to study the feasibility of potential efforts to share services among local governments.

"Ohio has thousands of local government entities, which has the advantage of keeping government close to the people, but the drawback is duplication of effort," State Auditor Dave Yost said in a statement. "Sharing services can keep government close to the people while reducing redundant administration, facilities and equipment. This saves money and improves efficiency for taxpayers. It also is a way to continue providing an adequate level of service even if costs rise or budgets shrink."

Space Embarks On Tour To Highlight Corruption; Cordray Launches New Ad; Yuko Gets SEIU Backing...

Zack Space announced that he is embarking on a two-day, five-city tour detailing the "corrupt culture on Capitol Square."

The state auditor hopeful in a statement cited the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow scandal and the resignation of former Speaker Cliff Rosenberger as examples of the "the pervasive culture of corruption."

"We must take state government back from the self-interested incumbents and campaign contributors who put their special interests above the needs of ordinary Ohioans," he said in a statement. "That's why I am calling for a wide-ranging criminal investigation into ECOT and for the politicians who aided and abetted this scam to

donate every cent of campaign contributions received from ECOT founder Bill Lager and his associates to charities supporting Ohio public schools."

The tour included Wednesday stops in Youngstown and Steubenville and will head to events in Dayton, Toledo and Lima on Thursday.

New Ad: Democrat Richard Cordray is up with his second television ad in his gubernatorial campaign.

In "Save," the former director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau touts his record of protecting consumers.

"As treasurer, Cordray safeguarded your tax dollars. As attorney general he recovered \$2 billion that Wall Street stole," the narrator says in the 30-second spot. "That's why President Obama chose him to be our nation's top consumer watchdog."

SEIU Backing: Senate Minority Leader Kenny Yuko, who faces a primary challenge from Rep. John Barnes (D-Cleveland), announced on Wednesday the Service Employees International Union District 1199 WV/KY/OH is backing his candidacy.

In announcing the endorsement Anthony Caldwell, director of public affairs, in a statement cited the Richmond Heights Democrat's three-decade career as a union organizer.

"Yuko's career as a 30-year union organizer reinforces and guides his principles to support the people of his district and determination to help those who are most vulnerable. He wants families in the 25th Senate District and across Ohio to earn fair wages, a quality public education, and access to healthcare coverage," he said.

Union Endorsement: Franklin County Recorder Danny O'Connor picked up another endorsement in his bid for the Democratic nomination in the 12th Congressional District.

The Communications Workers of America Local 4502 announced Wednesday that it is backing his candidacy. President David McCune in a statement said Mr. O'Connor will fight to protect working families.

"Danny has a passion for issues that affect hard working men and women such as creating economic opportunity and jobs for Ohio, improving our education system, and safeguarding our voting rights and the commitment to work for families," he said.

Farm Bill: The Ohio Farmers Union announced Wednesday its opposition to the U.S. House's version of the farm bill.

President Joe Logan said the proposal "turned a blind eye toward the urgent needs of farmers for a strong safety net" and "to the nutrition needs of America's least fortunate in both rural and urban communities."